National Anti-Slavery Standard.

SIDNEY HOWARD GAY, EDITOR. | Without Concealment....Without Compromise. | EDMUND QUINCY, JAMES RUSSELL LOWELL, } CORRESPONDING EDITORS.

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Selections.

TEXAS AND NEW MEXICO.

CONGRESS.—In the *Senate* on Tuesday, the 6th inst., after the morning business was disposed of, the following was received:

MESSAGE.

To the Senate and House of Representatives:

I herewith transmit to the two Houses of Congress, a letter from His Excellency the Governor of Texas, dated on the 14th day of June last, addressed to the late President of the United States, which, not having been answered by him, came to my hands on his death, and I also transmit a copy of the answer which I have felt it to be my duty to cause to be made to that communication. Congress will perceive that the Governor of Texas officially states, that, by authority of the Legislature of that State, he despatched a special commissioner, with full power and instructions to extend the civil jurisdiction of the State over the unorganized counties of El Paso, Worth, Presidio and Santa Fé, situated on its north-western limits: he proceeds to say, that the Commission had reported to him in an official form, that the military officers employed in the service of the United States, stationed at Santa Fé, interposed, adversely, with the inhabitants, to the fulfilment of his object, and in favor of the establishment of a separate State government, east of the Rio Grande, within the rightful limits of the State of Texas. These four counties, which Texas proposes to establish and organize, being within her own jurisdiction, extend over the whole of the territory east of the Rio Grande, which has been heretofore regarded as an essential and integral part of the department of New Mexico, and actually governed and possessed by her people until conquered and severed from the Republic of Mexico by the American arms. The Legislature of Texas has been called together by the Governor for the purpose, as is understood, of maintaining her claim to the territory east of the Rio Grande, and of establishing over it her own jurisdiction, and her own laws, by force.

These proceedings of Texas may well arrest the attention of all branches of the Government of the United States, and I rejoice that they occur while Congress is yet in session. A cri-is may be brought on which shall summon the two houses of Congress, and still more directly the Executive Government, to an immediate performance of their respective duties under the Constitution of the United States. The President is constituted commander-in-chief of the army and navy, and of the malitia of the several States, when called into the actual service of the United States. The Constitution declares also, that he shall take care that the laws be faithfully executed, and that he shall, from time to time, give to Congress information of the state of the Union. Congress has power under the Constitution to provide for calling on the militia to execute the laws of the Union, and suitable and appropriate acts of Congress have been passed, as well for providing for calling forth the malitia as for placing other suitable and efficient means in the hands of the President to enable him to discharge the constitutional functions of his office. The second section of the act of the 28th of Februrary, 1795, declares that "whenever the laws of the United States shall be opposed, or their execution be obstructed in any State by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the ordinary course of judicial proceedings of the power vested in the marshals, the President may call forth the militia so far as may be necessary to suppress such combinations, and to cause the laws to be duly executed." By the act of March 3d, 1807, it is provided, "that in all cases of obstruction to the laws either of the United States or any individual State or territory, when it is lawful for the President to call forth the military for the purpose of causing the laws to be duly executed, it shall be lawful for him to employ for the same purposes, such part of the land or naval force of the United States as he shall judge necessary." These several enactments are now in full force. If, therefore, the laws of the United States are opposed or obstructed in any State or territory, by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the judicial or civil authorities, and it becomes a case in which it is the duty of the President either to call out the militia, or to employ the military or naval force of the United States, or to do both, if in his judgment the exigency of the occasion shall so require, for the purpose of suppressing such combination, the constitutional duty of the President is plain and peremptory. The authority vested in him by law for the performance of this duty is clear and ample.

Texas, as a State, is authorized to maintain her own laws, so far as they are not repugnant to the constitution, laws and treaties of the United States, to suppress insurrections against her authority, and to punish those who commit treason against the State, according to the forms provided by her own constitution and her own laws. But the power is local, and confined entirely within the limits of Texas herself. She can possibly confer no authority which can be lawfully exercised beyond her own boundary. All this is plain, and hardly needs argument or elucidation. If Texan militia, therefore, march into any one of the other States, or into any territory of the United States, there to execute or enforce any law of Texas, they become at that moment trespassers—they are no longer under the protection of any lawful authority, and are to be regarded merely as intruders; and if within such State or territory they obstruct any law of the United States, either by force of arms, or mere power of numbers, constituting such a combination as is too powerful to be suppressed by the civil authority, the President of the United States has no option left to him, but is bound to obey the solemn injunction of the Constitution, and exercise the high powers vested in him by that instrument and by the acts of Congress. Or, if any civil posse, armed or unarmed, enter into any territory of the United States under the protection of the laws thereof, with the intention to seize individuals to be carried elsewhere for trial, for alleged offences, and this posse be too powerful to be resisted by the local and civil authorities, such seizure, or attempt to seize, is to be prevented or resisted by the authorities of the United States.

The grave and important question now arises whether there be in the Territory of New Mexico any existing law of the United States, opposition to which, or obstruction of which, would constitute a case calling for the interposition of the authority vested in the President. The Constitution of the United States declares that the Constitution and Laws of the United States, which shall be made in pursuance thereof, and all the treaties made, or which shall be made under the authority of the United States, shall be the supreme law of the land. If, therefore, New Mexico be a territory of the United States, and if any treaty stipulation be in force therein, such treaty stipulation is the supreme law of the land, and is to be maintained and upheld, and accordingly, in the letter to the Governor of Texas my reasons are given for believing that New Mexico is now a territory of the United States, with the same extent and the same boundaries which belonged to it in the actual possession of the Republic of Mexico, and before the late war. In the early part of that war both California and New Mexico were conquered by the arms of the United States, and were in the military possession of the United States at the date of the treaty of peace. By that treaty, the title by conquest was confirmed, and these territories, provinces or departments, separated from Mexico for ever; and by the same treaty, certain important rights and securities were solemnly guaranteed to the inhabitants residing therein. By the fifth article of the treaty, it is declared, that the boundary line between the two Republics shall commence in the Gulf of Mexico, three leagues from land opposite the mouth of the Rio Grande, otherwise called the Rio Bravo del Norte, or opposite the mouth of its deepest branch, if it should make more than one branch, emptying directly into the sea; from thence up the middle of that river, following the deepest channel where it has more than one, to the point where it strikes the Southern boundary of New Mexico; thence westwardly along the whole southern boundary of New Mexico, which runs north of the town called Passo, to its western boundary termination; thence westward along the western line of New Mexico, until it intersects the first branch of the river Gila, or if should not intersect any branch of that river, then to the point on the said line nearest to such branch, and thence in a direct line to the same; thence "down the middle of said branch and of the said river until it empties into the Rio Colorado; thence across the Colorado, following the division line between Upper and Lower California, to the Pacific Ocean."

The 8th Article of the Treaty is in the following terms: "The inhabitants of Mexican origin now established in territories previously belonging to Mexico, and who remain for the future within the limits of the United States, shall be free to continue where they now reside, or to remove at any time to the Mexican Republic, retaining the property which they possess in the said territory, or disposing thereof and removing the proceeds wherever they please, without being subjected on this account to any contribution tax, or charge whatever. Those who shall prefer to remain in the said territories may either retain the title and rights of Mexican citizens, or acquire those of citizens of the United States; but they shall be under obligation to make their election within one year from the date of the exchange of ratifications of this Treaty, and those who shall remain in the said territories after the expiration of that year without having declared their intention to retain the character of Mexicans, shall be considered to have elected to become citizens of the United States in the said territories. Property of every kind now belonging to Mexicans not established there, shall be inviolate. The present owners, their heirs, if Mexicans who may hereafter acquire said property by contract, shall enjoy, with respect to it, guarantees equally ample, as if the same belonged to citizens of the United States."

The 9th article of the Treaty is in these words:—'The Mexicans who in the territories aforesaid shall not preserve the character of citizens of the Mexican Republic conformable with what is stipulated in the preceding article, shall be incorporated into the Union of the United States, and be admitted at the proper time to be judged of by the Congress of the United States, to the enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principle of the Constitution, and in the meantime, shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction." It is plain, therefore, in the face of these treaty stipulations, that all Mexicans established in territories north or east of the line of demarcation already mentioned, come within the protection of the 9th article, and that the treaty being a part of the supreme law of the land, extends over all such Mexicans, and assures to them perfect security in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and in the free exercise of their religion, and this supreme law of the land is in actual force over this territory, and is to be maintained until it shall be displaced or superseded by other legal provisions, or obstructed by combinations too powerful to be suppressed by the civil authority.

This case is one which comes within the provisions of law, and which obliges the President to enforce these provisions. Neither the constitution nor the laws, nor my duty or my oath of office, leave me any alternative or any choice of my action.—The Executive Government of the United States has no power or authority to determine what was the true line of boundary between Mexico and the United States before the treaty of the Guadaloupe Hidalgo, nor has it any such power now, since the question has become one between the State of Texas and the United States. So far as this boundary is doubtful, that doubt should be removed by some act of Congress, to which the assent of Texas may be necessary by some appropriate mode of legal adjudication; but in the mean time, if disturbances or collision arise, or should be threatened, it is absolutely incumbent on the Executive Government, however painful the duty, to take care that the laws are faithfully maintained. He can regard only the actual state of things existing at the date of the treaty, and is bound to protect all inhabitants who were then established and now remain north and east of the line of demarcation, in the full enjoyment of their liberties and property, according to the provisions of the 9th article of the treaty. In other words, all must be now regarded as New Mexico which was possessed and occupied as New Mexico by the citizens of New Mexico at the date of the treaty, until a definite line of boundary shall be established, and by competent authority.

This assertion of duty to protect the people of New Mexico from threatened violence, or from liability to be carried into Texas for trial for alleged offences against Texan laws, does not at all include any claim of power on the part of the Executive to establish any civil or military government within that territory. That power belongs exclusively to the legislative department, and Congress is the sole judge of the time and manner of creating or authorizing any such government. The duty of the Executive only applies to the execution of laws, and the maintenance of treaties actually in force, and the protection of all the people of the United States in the enjoyment of the rights which those treaties and laws guarantee. It is exceedingly desirable that no occasion should arise for the exercise of the powers thus vested in the President by the Constitution and the laws, with whatever mildness those powers might be executed, or however clear the case of necessity, yet consequences might nevertheless follow which no human sagacity can foresee.

I have thus laid before Congress the communication of his Excellency the Governor of Texas, and the answer thereto, and have made such observations as I have thought the occasion called for respecting Constitutional obligations which may arise in the future progress of things, and may devolve on me to discharge. I hope I shall not be regarded as stepping aside from the line of my duty, notwithstanding I am aware that the subject is now before both Houses, if I express my deep and earnest conviction of the importance of an immediate decision, or arrangement, for settlement of the question of the boundary between Texas and the territory of New Mexico. All consideration of justice, general expediency, and domestic tranquility calls for this. It seems to be in its character the first, or one of the first of the questions growing out of the acquisition of California and New Mexico, now requiring decision, if New Mexico can be made either a State or a territory, until it shall be first ascertained what New Mexico is, and what are her limits and boundaries. These cannot be fixed or known till the line of division between her and Texas shall be ascertained and established. Numerous and weighty reasons conspire in my judgment to show that this divisional line should be established by Congress, with the assent of the government of Texas, in the first place. This seems by far the most prompt mode of proceeding by which the end can be accomplished. If judicial proceedings were resorted to, such proceedings would necessarily be slow, and years would pass by, in all probability, before the controversy could be ended; so great a delay in this case is to be avoided if possible; such delay would be every way inconvenient, and might be the occasion of disturbances and collisions; for the same reason I would, with the utmost deference to the wisdom of Congress, express a doubt of the expediency of the appointment of Commissioners and of examination, estimate and award of indemnity to be made by them; this would be but a species of arbitration, which might last as long as a suit at law.

So far as I am able to comprehend the general facts are now all known, and Congress is as capable of deciding it justly and properly now, as it probably would be after the report of the Commissioners. The claim of title on the part of Texas appears to be well founded in the whole or part. It is in the competency of Congress to offer her an indemnity for the surrender of the claim. In a case like this, surrounded as it is by many cogent considerations, all calling for an amicable adjustment and immediate settlement, the government of the United States would be justified in my opinion, in allowing an indemnity to Texas, not unreasonable in amount, but fair, liberal, [illegible] of accommodation. I think no event would be hailed with more gratification by the people of the United States than the amicable adjusment of these difficult questions, which have for a long time agitated the country, and occupied, to the exclusion of other subjects, the time and attention of Congress. Having thus freely communicated the result of my own reflections on the most advisable mode of adjusting this boundary question, I shall, nevertheless, cheerfully acquiesce in any other mode which the wisdom of Congress may devise—and, in conclusion, I repeat my conviction, that every consideration of the public interest manifests the necessity of a provision by Congress of a settlement of this boundary question before the present session be brought to a close. The settlement of other questions connected with the same subject, within the same period, is greatly to be desired, but the adjustment of this, appears to me to be in the highest degree important. In the train of such an adjustment, we may well hope, there will follow a return of harmony and good will, an increased attachment to the Union, and the general satisfaction of the country.

MILLARD FILLMORE.

WASAINGTON, August 6, 1850.

The accompanying documents were then read, the first of which was the letter of Gov. Bell of Texas to President Taylor, calling his attention to the proceedings in New Mexico, which letter is alluded to in the Message.

Mr. Webster's letter in reply to Gov. Bell says the general government had authorized Col. Monroe to comply with the wishes of the people of Mexico, and to issue a proclamation for a State Government by the order of the Secretary of War, dated the 19th of last November, but to take no part in the proceedings, except in accordance with the desire of the people of New Mexico.

Colonel Monroe acted in his civil capacity as ordered above. That proclamation the Executive approves. It provides nothing but what the Constitution and laws of the United States authorize.

The President approves the course of President Polk and General Kearney. He thinks the treaty bore them out in their proceedings, and they will be followed by the present Administration.

President Taylor thought the people ought to form a State Government, and be admitted; hence the order of the 19th of November, upon which Colonel Monroe's proclamation was based.

He thought Colonel Monroe's proclamation could affect neither the title of the United States nor that of Texas. The action of the people there, or the officers of the Government, could not impair the original question of boundary.

THE TEXAS BOUNDARY QUESTION.

We give below the following letter from the Secretary of State, which accompanied the preceeding Message of President Fillmore to the Senate and House of Representatives, and the debate which followed its reception in the House:

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.
WASHINGTON, August 5, 1850.

To his Excellency, P. H. Bell, Governor of Texas:

SIR—A letter addressed by you to the late President of the United States, and dated on the 14th of June last, has, since his lamented decease, been transferred to the hands of his successor, by whom I am directed to address to you the following answer:

In that letter you say that by the authority of the Legislature of Texas, the Executive of that State, in February last, dispatched a special Commissioner with full power and instructions to extend the civil jurisdiction of that State over the unorganized counties of El Paso, Worth, Presido and Santa Fé, situated upon its northwestern limits; and that the commissioner has reported to you in an official form that the military officer employed in the service of the United States, stationed at Santa Fé, interposed adversely with the inhabitants to the fulfilment of his object, by employing their influence in favor of the establishment of a separate state government east of the Rio Grande, and within the rightful limits of the State of Texas.

You also transmit a copy of the proclamation of Colonel John Monroe, acting under the orders of the government of the United States, under the designation of civil and military governor of the territory of New Mexico, and respectfully request the President to cause you to be informed whether or not this officer has acted in this manner under the orders of his government, and whether his proclamation meets with the approval of the President of the United States.

In the events which have occurred, the President hardly knows whether your Excellency would naturally expect an answer to this letter from him. His predecessor in office, to whom it was addressed, and under whose authority and direction the proclamation of Colonel Monroe was issued, is no more; and at this time, that proclamation, whatever may be regarded as its true character, has ceased to have influence or effect. The meeting of the people of New Mexico, by their Representatives, which it invited, is understood to have taken place, although this government has as yet received no official information of it.

Partaking, however, in the fullest degree, in that high respect which the Executive government of the United States always entertains towards the Governors and the governments of the States, the President thinks it his duty, nevertheless, to manifest that feeling of respect, by acknowledging and answering your letter. And the duty, let me assure your Excellency, has been so long delayed only by uncontrollable circumstances, and is now performed at the earliest practicable moment, after the appointment of those heads of departments, and their acceptance of office, with whom it is usual, on important occasions, for the President of the United States to advise.

In answer, therefore, to your first interrogatory, viz: whether Colonel Munroe, in issuing the proclamation referred to, acted under the orders of this government, the President directs me to state, that Colonel Monroe's proclamation appears to have been issued in pursuance or in consequence of an order or letter of instructions given by the late Secretary of War, under the authority of the late President, to Lieutenant Colonel McCall.

Of this order, which bears date on the 19th of November, 1849, your Excellency was undoubtedly informed at the date of your letter. A full and accurate copy, however, is attached to this communication. Col. McCall is therein instructed, that if the people of New Mexico, for whom Congress had provided no government, should manifest a wish to take any steps to establish a government for themselves, and apply for admission into the Union, it will be his duty and the duty of others with whom he is associated, not to thwart but to advance their wishes.—This order does not appear to authorize any exertion of military authority, or of any official or even personal interference to control, or affect in any way the primary action of the people, in the formation of a government, nor to permit any such interference by subordinate officers. Col. McCall and his associates were not called upon to take a lead in any measures, or even to recommend any thing as fit to be adopted by the people. Their whole duty was confined to what they might be able to perform, subordinate to the wishes of the people. In this matter it was evidently contemplated that they were to act as the agents of the inhabitants, and not as officers of this government.

It must be recollected that the only government then existing in the territory was a *quasi* military government; and as Congress has made no provision for the establishment of any form of civil government, and as the President doubtless believed that, under these circumstances, the people had a right to frame a government for themselves, and submit it to Congress for its approval, the order was a direction that the then existing military government should not stand in the way of the accomplishment of the wishes of the people, nor thwart those wishes, if the people entertained them, for the establishment of a free, popular, republican, civil government, for their own protection and benefit—[illegible] is evidently the whole purpose and object of the order.

The military officer in command, and his associates, were American citizens, acquainted with the forms of civil and popular proceedings, and it was expected that they would aid the inhabitants of the territory, by their advice and assistance, in their proceedings for establishing a government of their own. There is no reason to suppose that Col. Monroe, an officer as much distinguished for prudence and discretion as for gallant conduct in arms, meant to act, or did act otherwise than in entire subordination and subserviency to the will of the people among whom he was placed. He was not authorized to do, nor does the President understand him as intending to do, any thing whatever in his military character, nor to represent in any way the wishes of the Executive Government of the United States.

To judge intelligently and fairly of these transactions, we must recall to our recollection the circumstances of the case as they then existed.

Previous to the war with Mexico, which commenced in May, 1846, and received the sanction of Congress on the 13th of that month, the territory of New Mexico formed a department or State of the Mexican Republic, and was governed by her laws.

General Kearney, acting under orders from the Government, invaded this departmeat with an armed force; the Governor fled at his approach, and the troops under his command dispersed, and General Kearney entered Santa Fé, the capital, on the 18th of August, 1846, and took possession of the territory in the name of the United States. On the 22d of that month, he issued a proclamation to the inhabitants, stating the fact that he had taken possession of Santa Fé, at the head of his troops, and announcing "his intention to hold the department with its original boundaries (on both sides of the Del Norte) and under the name of New Mexico."

By that proclamation he promised to protect the inhabitants of New Mexico in their persons and property, against their Indian enemies, *and all others*; and assured them that the United States intended to provide for them a free Government, when the people would be called upon to exercise the rights of freemen in electing their own representatives to the territorial Legislature. On the same day he established a territorial constitution by an organic law, which provided for executive, legislative, and judicial departments of the government; defined the right of suffrage, and provided for trial by jury, and at the same time established a code of laws. This constitution declared that "the country heretofore known as New Mexico shall be known hereafter and designated as the territory of New Mexico, in the United States of America;" and the members of the lower house of the Legislature were apportioned among the counties established by the decree of the department of New Mexico, of June 17, 1844, which counties, it is understood, included all the territory over which Texas has lately attempted to organize counties, and establish her own jurisdiction.

On the 22d of December, 1846, a copy of this constitution and code was transmitted by President Polk to the House of Representatives, in pursuance of a call on him by that body. In the message transmitting the constitution, he says, that "portions of it purport to establish and organize a permanent territorial government over the territory, and to impart to its inhabitants political rights which, under the Constitution of the United States, can be enjoyed, permanently, only by citizens of the United States These have not been approved and recognized by me. Such organized regulations as have been established in any of the conquered territories for the security of our conquest, for the preservation of order, for the protection of the rights of the inhabitants, and for depriving the enemy of the advantages of these territories while the military possession of them by the forces of the United States continue, will be recognized and approved."

Near four years have now elapsed since the *quasi* military government was established by military authority, and received with the exceptions mentioned, the approval of President Polk. In the meantime, a treaty of peace has been concluded with Mexico, by which a boundary line was established, that left this territory within the United States, thereby confirming to the United States, by treaty, what we had before acquired by conquest. The treaty, in perfect accordance with the proclamation of General Kearney, declared that the Mexicans remaining in this territory should be incorporated into the Union of the United States, to be admitted at the proper time, (to be judged by the Congress of the United States,) to an enjoyment of all the rights of citizens of the United States, according to the principles of the constitution, "and, in the meantime, should be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion without restriction."

Thus it will be perceived that the authority of the United States over New Mexico was the result of conquest; and the possession held of it, in the first place, was of course a military possession. The treaty added the title by cession to the already existing title by successful achievements in arms.—With the peace, there arose a natural expectation, that, as early as possible, there would come a civil government to supersede the military. But until some such form of government should come into existence, it was matter of absolute necessity that the military government should continue, as otherwise the country must fall into absolute anarchy. And this has been the course generally, in the practice of civilized nations, when colonies or territories have been acquired by war, and their acquisition confirmed by treaty.

The military government, therefore, existing in New Mexico at the date of the order, existed there of inevitable necessity. It existed as much against the will of the executive government of the United States, as against the will of the people. The late President had adopted the opinion, that it was justifiable in the people of the territories, under the circumstances, to form a constitution and government, without any previous authority conferred by Congress, and thereupon to apply for admission into the Union. It was under this state of things, and under the influence of these opinions, that the order of the 8th of November last was given, and executed in the manner we have seen. The order indicates no boundary, and defines no territory, except by the name of New Mexico; and so far as that indicated anything, it referred to a known territory, which had been organized under military authority, approved by the Executive, and left without remonstrance or alteration by Congress for more than three years. It appears to the President that such an order could not have been intended to invade the rights of Texas.

Secondly, you ask whether the proclamation of Colonel Munroe meets with the approval of the President of the United States?

To determine this question, it is necessary to look at the *object* of the proclamation, and the *effect* of the proceedings had under it. If the object was to assume the authority to settle the disputed boundary with Texas, then the President has no hesitation in saying such object does not meet his approbation, because he does not believe that the Executive branch of this government or the inhabitants of New-Mexico, or both combined, have only constitutional authority to settle that question. That belongs either to the judicial department of the Federal Government or to the concurrent action by agreement of the legislative departments of the governments of the United States and Texas.

But it has been sufficiently shown that Colonel Monroe could have had no such object, and that his intention was merely to act in aid of the people in forming a State constitution to be submitted to Congress. Assuming, then, that such a constitution has been formed what is its effect upon the disputed boundary? If it compromits the right of either party to that question, then it does not meet the President's approbation, for he deems it his duty to leave the settlement of that question to the tribunal to which it constitutionally belongs. It is sufficient for him, that this boundary is in dispute. That the territory east of the Rio del Norte seems to be claimed in good faith, both by Texas and New Mexico, or rather by the United States. Whatever might be his judgment in regard to their respective rights, he has no power to decide upon them, or even to negotiate in regard to them; and therefore it would be improper for him to express any opinion.

The subject matter of dispute is between the United States and Texas, and not between the inhabitants of New Mexico and Texas. If those people should voluntarily consent to come under the jurisdiction of Texas, such consent would not bind the United States, or take away their title to the territory. So, on the other hand, if they should voluntarily claim the title for the United States, it would not deprive Texas of her rights, whatever those rights might be. They can only be effected by her own acts, or a judicial decision. The State constitution formed by New Mexico can have no legal validity until it is recognized and adopted by the law-making power of the United States. Until that is done, it has no sanction, and can have no effect upon the rights of Texas or of the United States, to the territory in dispute. And it is not to be presumed that Congress will ever give its sanction to that constitution, without first providing for the settlement of this boundary.

Indeed, no government, either territorial or State, can be formed for New Mexico without providing for settling this boundary. Hence, he regards the formation of this State constitution as a mere nullity. It may be regarded, indeed, as a petition to Congress to be admitted as a State; but, until Congress shall grant the prayer of such petition by legal enactments, it affects the rights of neither party. But as it is the right of all to petition Congress for any law which it may constitutionally pass, this people were in the exercise of a common right when they formed their constitution, with a view of applying to Congress for admission as a State; and as he thinks the act can prejudice no one, he feels bound to approve of the conduct of Colonel Monroe, in issuing the proclamation.

I am directed to state, that in the President's opinion, it would not be just to suppose that the late President desired to manifest any unfriendly attitude or aspect towards Texas or the claims of Texas. The boundary between Texas and New Mexico was known to be disputed; and it was equally well known that the Executive government of the United States had no power to settle that dispute. It is believed that the Executive power has not wished—it certainly does not now wish—to interfere with that question, in any manner whatever, as a question of title.

In one of his last communications to Congress, that of the 17th of June last, the late President repeated the declaration that he had no power to decide the question of boundary, and no desire to interfere with it; and that the authority to settle that question resided elsewhere. The object of the Executive government has been, as I believe, and as I am authorized to say it certainly now is, to secure the peace of the country; to maintain as far as practicable the state of things as it existed at the date of the treaty; and to uphold and preserve the rights of the respective parties as they were under the solemn guarantee of the treaty, until the highly interesting question of boundary should be finally settled by competent authority. This treaty, which is now a supreme law of the land, declares, as before stated, that the inhabitants shall be maintained and protected in the free enjoyment of their liberty and property, and secured in the free exercise of their religion. It will, of course, be the President's duty to see that this law is sustained, and the protection which it guaranties made effectual—and this is the plain and open path of Executive duty, in which he proposes to tread.

Other transactions of a very grave character are alluded to, and recited in your Excellency's letter. To those transactions, I am now directed not more particularly to advert, because the only questions propounded by you respect the authority under which Colonel Munroe acted. Your Excellency's communication and answer will be immediately laid before Congress, and the President will take that occasion to bring to its notice the transactions alluded to above.

It is known to your Excellency, that the questions growing out of the acquisition of California and New Mexico, and among them the highly important one of the boundary of Texas, have steadily engaged the attention of both Houses of Congress for many months, and still engage it, with intense interest. It is understood that the Legislature of Texas will be shortly in session, and will have the boundary question also before it. It is a delicate crisis in our public affairs; not free certainly from possible dangers, but let us confidently trust that justice, moderation, patriotism, and the love of the Union, may inspire such counsels, both in the government of the United States and that of Texas, as shall carry the country through these dangers, and bring it safely out of them all. And with renewed assurances of the continuance of mutual respect and harmony, in the great family of States,

I have the honor to be, with entire regard, your Excellency's most obedient servant,

DANIEL WEBSTER,
Secretary of State.

SPEECH OF MR. BENTON, OF MISSOURI.

AGAINST CEDING SEVENTY THOUSAND SQUARE MILES OF NEW MEXICO TO TEXAS.

IN SENATE....July 15, 1850.

Mr. Benton offered the following amendment to the Compromise Bill.

"Strike out of proposition 'first' of section 39, after the word 'beginning,' these words: "at the point on the Rio del Norte, commonly called El Paso, and running up that river twenty miles, measured by a straight line thereon, and thence eastwardly to a point where the 100th degree of west longitude crosses Red river, being the southwest angle, in the line designated between the United States and Mexico, and the same angle in the line of the territory set apart for the Indians by the United States,' and insert after the said word 'beginning,' these words: 'at the point in the middle of the deepest channel in the Rio Grande del Norte, where the same is crossed by the 102d degree of longitude west from the meridian of Greenwich; thence north along that longitude, to the 34th degree of north latitude; thence eastwardly to the point at which the 100th degree of west longitude crosses the Red river."

The amendment being stated by the Chair, Mr. Benton said:

The motion is to strike out and insert—to strike out the committee's proposed line for the western boundary of Texas, and to insert a different one in place of it. The committee's line begins twenty miles, on a straight line, above El Paso, and runs northeastwardly to the point at which the Red river is crossed by the one hundredth degree of west longitude. The line I propose begins in the middle of the channel of the Rio Grande del Norte, where it is crossed by the one hundred and second degree of west longitude, about three hundred miles, on a straight line, below El Paso, and runs north with that longitude to the thirty-fourth parallel of north latitude, where it strikes the committee's line; and thence, with that line, to its termination at the intersection of the Red river by the one hundredth degree of west longitude. These are the two lines, and the difference between them is a difference of seventy thousand square miles cut off from New Mexico and given to Texas.

My objections to the committee's proposed line were stated in a former speech, and nothing which was said then will be repeated now. The point of those objections was, that that line was a dismemberment of New Mexico, cutting off seventy thousand square miles of its territory, and giving it to Texas. My reasons for the line I propose were also stated in the same speech, and will not be repeated now.—Their point was, that a line along the one hundred and second degree of west longitude would be the proper boundary between New Mexico and Texas—the one that should conform to the actual possession of both countries, to their civil and geographical divisions. Without repeating arguments formerly used, my design is to rise higher, and establish the same points by new and closer evidence, drawn as the rhetoricians express it, *ex visceribus causæ*—from the bowels of the case—that is to say, from the bill and report of the committee itself, and from the authentic map of the State of Texas.

I begin with the committee's bill, and show from it that a cession of a part of New Mexico to Texas, and not the ascertainment of the true line between them, was the object of the committee; and that in fact they make a cession of one half of New Mexico to Texas, and then accept a cession of the other half from her, and then propose to pay her a large sum of money besides. Here is the ceding clause in the committee's bill:

"Second. The United States *cede* to the State of Texas all right, claim, and title, which they have to any territory lying *south* of the line aforesaid. And the said State of Texas *cedes* to the United States any right, claim, and title, which it has to any territory lying *north* of the said line."

These are the words of the committee's bill—a cession—a mutual cession of territory from each to the other, and in terms which imply title in each. The United States cede to Texas all the territory that lies south of the committee's line; Texas cedes to the United States all the territory that lies north of it. It is the act of two owners acting independently of each other, and making an exchange of land, and in terms which imply an equality of title in the respective cessions. Upon the words of this clause, then this transfer to Texas is a cession from the United States, and conveys to Texas the right, title, and claim of the United States to all the territory ceded. Another part of the bill is equally explicit in treating this transfer as a cession. The sixth clause is in these words:

"Sixth. If the said State of Texas shall refuse to accede to the preceding articles, they shall become null and void, and the United States shall be remitted back to all their territorial rights, in the same state and condition as if these articles of compact had never been tendered to the acceptance of the State of Texas."

This is confirmation, both of the cession and of the title of the United States. It makes a provision for resuming the title of the United States if the exchange is not agreed to by Texas. It remits the title—sends it back—to the United States, if Texas does not accept! and, to give more emphatic meaning to this remission, as a return to its former owner, the expletive "back" is superadded—a redundancy of phrase which could only be justified by the extreme desire of saving the title of the United States, if the committee cannot succeed in giving it away.

The report of the committee, in explanation and support of their bill, fully accords with these two clauses of the bill itself. it treats the line they propose as making a cession of the United States territory to Texas, and carefully reclaims the title, if the cession is not accepted. Thus:

"If the boundary be assented to by Texas, she will be quieted to that extent in her title. And some may suppose that, in consideration of this concession by the United States, she might, without any other equivalent, relinquish any claim she has beyond the proposed boundary; that is, any claim to any part of New Mexico. But, under the influence of a sentiment of justice and great liberality, the bill proposes to Texas, for her relinquishment of any such claim, a large pecuniary equivalent."

And again:

"It cannot be anticipated that Texas will accede to these liberal propositions; but if she should, it is to be distinctly understood that the title of the United States to any territory acquired from Mexico east of the Rio Grande, will remain unimpaired, and in the same condition as if the proposals of adjustment now offered had never been made."

Here are two distinct confirmations of the meaning expressed in the committee's bill, and shows that the import of the words employed by them was duly and cautiously considered. "Concession" is the term they apply to it, which is the equivalent of cession, which is itself equivalent to the word grant. "Unimpaired" is to be the state of the United States title, if the concession is not accepted by Texas, and, as an acquisition from Texas, the remaining part of New Mexico is proposed to be held. The words all imply cession and acquisition; and in that, the bill and report are right. It is a cession of seventy thousand square miles of New Mexico to Texas for nothing! with a proposal to purchase the remaining part of New Mexico from her at a greater price! The whole crowned by a bungling salvo to save our title "unimpaired," if Texas cannot be induced to accept those fine terms—terms which give her both our land and our money. Thus, the report accords with the bill, and sustains my proposition.

I now proceed to other evidence.

Here is a map! the title, contents, date, and verification of which are vital to this inquiry. It is entitled, A Map of the State of Texas, by Cordova; and it declares itself to be compiled from the records of the General Land Office of the State, and is dated in the spring of 1848, and professes to give every county, every town, land district, river and stream in the State; and is verified by the signatures of the Senators and Representatives of the State in Congress, by the commissioner of the General Land Office, and the attestation of the Governor, and of the Secretary of State. It must be assumed to be an authentic map of the State, such as it was at the time of its compilation—spring of 1848—and will not be questioned by Texas, and is the sole evidence for which the United States will have occasion in maintaining the possession of all New Mexico until the question of title shall be competently disposed of. It shows the possession of Texas as it stood at the time that the United States acquired New Mexico. It is the map of possession—the map of the State as possessed—at that identical moment, vital to this question: it extends from the Sabine to 102 deg. of west longitude. And here is a reduced map in the corner of the large one, embracing the country from the Mississippi river to the Pacific ocean, and showing the whole extent of the claim of Texas. I will explain the reduced map first. Here it is. (holding it up.) The blue color represents the whole claim of Texas, extenting to the head of the Del Norte, and thence to north latitude 42 deg., where it corners with Oregon and California, having "Santa Fé county" written upon it, near San Miguel, the place where the Texan expedition was taken prisoner in the year 1841. The small red and yellow squares in the eastern part of this little map represent the counties, land districts, and the colonial land grants in Texas; and they show that the longitude of 102 deg.—the same which I propose for the western limit of Texas—was the utmost limit to which any land district or occupied county then extended. Fannin land district extended precisely to that longitude, and is bounded by it. Bexar county extended in that direction, but without a settler near it. This is what the little map shows—the whole claim of Texas, covering all New Mexico, east of the Del Norte—and her actual possession limited to the eastern side of the longitude of 102 degrees.

I now recur to the large map, entitled A Map of the State of Texas; and first read the certificate of verification which I find on its face. These are they:

"WASHINGTON CITY, August 22, 1848.

1. "We the undersigned senators and representatives from the State of Texas do hereby certify, that we have carefully examined, J. De Cardova's map of the State of Texas, compiled by R. Creuzbawr, from the records of the General Land Office of Texas, and have no hesitation in saying that no map could surpass this in accuracy and fidelity. It has delineated upon it every county in the State, its towns, rivers, and streams; and we cordially recommend it to every person who desires correct geographical knowledge of our State. To persons desirous of visiting Texas it will be invaluable."

[Signed: Thomas J. Rusk, Sam. Houston, David S. Kaufman, S. P. Pilsbury.]

2 "I hereby certify, that this map has been compiled from the records of the General Land Office, by Robert Creuzbawr, and that it is the most correct representation of the State which I have seen, or which has come within my knowledge. The meanders of the rivers are all correctly represented, being made from actual surveys."

[Signed by Thomas W. Ward, at Austin, in July, 1848.]

3 "The undersigned, Commissioner of the General Land Office of the State of Texas, has no hesitancy in declaring it as his firm conviction, that this map is a very correct representation of the State, representing all returns up to date, having been compiled with great care from the records of the General Land Office by the draughtsman, Robert Creuzbawr."

[Signed July 4, 1848: George W. Smith.

4. "State of Texas: I certify that George William Ward was Commissioner of the General Land Office from the 5th day of January, 1841, to the 20th of March, 1848; and also that George W. Smith is now and has been Commissioner as aforesaid since the said 20th day of March last. In testimony whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and affix the seal of the State, at Austin, the 7th day of July, 1848, and of the independence of Texas the thirteenth year."

[Signed, George T. Wood. countersigned by the Secretary of State, W. D. Miller.]

This is the authentication of the map, and certainly nothing could be more full and satisfactory. The dates of the certificates are also most essential; for they show the map to have been compiled as late as the spring of 1848, the very date of the treaty with the Republic of Mexico, as if compiled for the exact purpose of showing the United States the extent of Texan possession on the day she became interested in the question, by becoming the owner of the territory contiguous to Texas.

Here is this authentic map. Look at it (holding it up). It is large enough to be seen across the chamber, and shows objects with sufficient distinctness to be discerned by all. Its western limit is the longitude of 102! the very limit I propose, as if I had made the map myself to suit my bill. Here is the longitude of 102 constituting the western limit of the map, running through the centre of the Staked Plain, leaving every county, every town, and every land district, and every stream and river of Texas, with all their head springs and sources to the east, leaving the whole course of the Puerco and its valley to the west, and striking the Del Norte just below the mouth of the Puerco, and three hundred miles on a straight line below El Paso.

Behold it! Here is 102 cutting the long blank space marked *El Llano Estacado*, the Staked Plain; and here are all the breaks in the eastern declivity of that long, broad, and sterile table land, from which issue the thousand little streams which, taking their course towards the rising sun, and gathering themselves into large channels, give birth to all the beautiful rivers of Texas—the Colorado, the Brasos (Los Brasos de Dois, the Arms of God), the Nueces, and the southern forks of the Red River. There they all are! Every thing that is Texan by nature or by law! Rivers, towns, counties, all to the east of 102, and all separated from New Mexico by the high desert plain which marks the structure of the country, and divides systems of rivers and of lands from each other.

This is the line which I propose, and upon the adoption of which the sense of the Senate will be taken. It is entirely different from that of the committee, and makes a difference of 70,000 square miles to the United States territory in New Mexico, according to its adoption or rejection.

I have diligently studied the report of the committee, to find out the principle on which they could take a line beginning above El Paso to divide the territories of New Mexico and Texas—a line which, conforming to neither claim, falsifies both! and which, contradicting history, geography, and law, invalidates itself! I have been greatly at a loss to discover the principle on which such an anomalous line could be based; and suppose I have found it, so far as it can be found, in the paragraph of the committee's report, which I will now read. This is it:

"The committee beg leave next to report on the subject of the northern and western boundary of Texas. On that question a *great diversity* of opinion has prevailed. According to *one view* of it, the western limit of Texas was the *Neuces*; according to *another*, it extended to the *Rio Grande*, and stretched from its mouth to its source. A *majority* of the committee, having come to the conclusion of recommending an *amicable adjustment* of the boundary with Texas, *abstain from expressing any opinion as to the true and legitimate* western and northern boundary of that State. The terms proposed for such an adjustment are contained in the bill herewith reported, and they are, with considerable variation, the same as that reported by the Committee on Territories.

"According to these terms, it is proposed to Texas that her boundary be *recognized* to the Rio Grande, and up that river to the point *commonly called El Paso*, and running thence up that river twenty miles, measured thereon by a straight line, and thence eastwardly to a point where the hundredth degree of west longitude crosses Red River; being the south-west angle in the line designated between the United States and Mexico, and the same angle in the line of the territory set apart for the Indians by the United States."

This it is! and a pretty light it is to guide the Congress of the United States—a great diversity of opinion among the people, and no opinion at all in the committee. Some think the Nueces the true and legitimate western boundary; some think it extends to the Rio Grande. The committee think neither one nor the other, nor any thing else; but, having come to the conclusion to recommend an amicable adjustment, they abstain from expressing any opinion as to the true and legitimate western boundary of Texas! and then, without any regard to what is either true or legitimate, they cut New Mexico in two, and give half of her to Texas. If the committee had studied the question of boundary, and expressed an opinion, and then made their line comformable to it, their recommendation might have been entitled to great weight. But they do no such thing. They do not study the question. They expressly abstain from it. They neither give an opinion of their own, nor adopt that of anybody else. They neither take the Neuces, as they say some believe, nor the Rio Grande, as they say others believe; nor name any line which they themselves believe; but, going it blind—making a half and half business of it—cutting instead of untying the Gordian knot—they take a new course across the Puercos, beginning half way up the Del Norte, cut New Mexico in two just below the hips, and give the lower half to Texas leaving New Mexico to stump it about as she can, without feet or legs.

This is called abstaining from expressing an opinion; but it is certainly acting an opinion, and executing it also. They amputate New Mexico—cut her in two just below the middle—give half to Texas—and call that no opinion. Sir, there was once a dispute before a wise man with respect to the maternity of a child. Two different women claimed to be its mother, and Solomon, puzzled with their contradictory asseverations and not able to decide which was the true and legitimate mother, and abstaining from expressing any opinion, ordered the child to be cut in two, and half of it to be given to each. You know how it ended. The true mother would not have the child cut in two! and the wise man knew that! and his judgement was nothing but a device to find out the truth by making nature speak. I do not know whether our committee have acted on the policy of Solomon—Solomons though they all may be: nor in fact upon what policy or principle they acted. There is no point, from the head to the mouth of the river, which may not be taken on the same principle. Amicable adjustment is the only rule they profess, and that seems to be very amicable; and, according to what they propose, all their amicability runs in one channel, and all their adjustment leans to one side. They give seventy thousand square miles of New Mexico to Texas, and offer her ten millions of dollars to accept of it! This is amicable enough to Texas, and adjustment enough to suit her! But how does it suit the United States and New Mexico? How does it suit truth and justice—that true and legitimate line which the committee did not even pretend to ascertain!

The committee propose a consideration to be paid by the United States to Texas—how much, they do not say in their bill or report, but rumor talks of ten millions of dollars. This is what the report says:

"As a consideration for it, and considering that a portion of the debt of Texas was created on a pledge to her creditors on the duties on foreign imports, transferred by the resolution of annexation to the United States, and now received and receivable in their treasury, a majority of the committee recommend the payment of the sum of ——— millions of dollars to Texas, to be applied in the first instance to the extinction of that portion of her debt for the reimbursement of which the duties on foreign imports were pledged as aforesaid; and the residue in such manner as she may direct. According to an estimate which has been made, there are included in the territory to which it is proposed that Texas shall relinquish her claim, embracing that part of New Mexico lying east of the Rio Grande, a little less than 124,933 square miles, and about 79,957,120 acres of land. From the proceeds of the sale of this land, the United States may ultimately be reimbursed a portion, if not the whole of the amount of what is thus proposed to be advanced to Texas."

The consideration is not named; but some things are named which may help to form a judgment as to what it ought to be. Let us consider them. In the first place, this is an affair of mutual concession—an exchange of land—so much on one side, and so much on the other—and then boot from the United States to Texas to the figure of some millions. The first question is, how much land does each give? And the committee answers for Texas, with great precision, a little less than 124,933 square miles, including that part of New Mexico which lies east of the Rio Grande: and I answer for New Mexico, 70,000 square miles, including the El Paso and Puerco country. Upon the figures, Texas would seem to have ceded most, and entitled to receive boot; but when it comes to be considered that this cession from Texas includes all New Mexico east of the Del Norte, from twenty miles above El Paso to the head of the river—that it cedes five hundred miles of what was New Mexico for a hundred years before the name of Texas had been heard of—that it includes thirty towns and villages, and seventy thousand New Mexican people who admit no allegiance to Texas—then it becomes a question whether this five hundred miles of New Mexico should not be deducted from the committee's quantity of 124,933 square miles. I happen to be of that opinion; and so would deduct about 50,000 square miles from the committee's count. That would make the two cessions about equal in extent, about equal in quantity. And now for quality and value. How would the two cessions stand in that respect? Evidently the 70,000 square miles taken from New Mexico is worth more than the 75,000 ceded by Texas. It is in a better climate, being all of it south of 34 deg., and part as far south as 29 1-2 deg.: while the Texan cession goes up to 42 deg., in the Rocky Mountains—within thirty miles of the South Pass, and cornering on Oregon and California. It is better land. It has civilized people upon it—four or five thousand at San Elearario, and two or three thousand at other places. It is unincumbered with resident Indians, and will be ready for immediate sale and settlement, and lies in the direct track from the lower Mississippi to the northern part of the republic of Mexico, and the Gila route to California and the Pacific ocean. It is the most valuable cession, equal in extent, better in climate and quality, and more desirable from position. And yet the committee propose boot—good boot—some millions. That is not the rule in the horse swap. It is not the rule to give the best horse, and then give the price of the other, especially when both horses belong to yourself.

The committee, in their report, seem to be a little conscious that they were rather overdoing the matter in this article of compensation to Texas—this new mode of swapping land—giving the best land, and then giving boot besides. They say:

"If this boundary be assented to by Texas, she will be quieted to that extent in her title. And some may suppose that in consideration of this concession by the United States, she might, without any other equivalent, relinquish any claim she has beyond the proposed boundary: that is, any claim to any part of New Mexico. But, under the influence of a sentiment of justice and great liberality, the bill proposes to Texas, for her relinquishment of any such claim, a large pecuniary equivalent."

This is candid. Doubtless many will suppose, as the committee think some will, that the United States had given land enough without superadding money to it. They would think so upon the very reasonable principle, that when a man had given up half his land to quiet a claim to it, that he should not pay money for the other half, especially when he believed both halves belonged to himself, and when he had possessed it all for two hundred and fifty years. It is very reasonable in such a case, that some would suppose that he had done enough in giving up half. I, myself, would certainly be one in that some. But, not so to the committee. They have a new rule to go by, unknown in trade or politics before. They have recourse to sentiment! and, under its influence, and from a feeling of great liberality, they will make "other equivalent" to Texas for relinquishing her claim to the rest of New Mexico. This is the way it stands in the committee's bill and report; and I give what they say in their own words, that there may be no mistake about it; another equivalent is what they propose. One might suppose that one equivalent was enough, but they propose another, so that there shall be both a moneyed and a landed equivalent to Texas. Now, I object to all this. I object to accept a cession of New Mexico from Texas, first, because the United States has a claim to it herself, and has the actual possession, which is a right to possession until the claim is decided. Secondly, because the acceptance of such a cession would admit the title of Texas to all New Mexico east of the Rio Grande, and so raise questions to disturb both New Mexico and the United States. Thirdly, because we give more valuable territory than we receive, and then pay the value of what we receive into the bargain, and which was our own before.

Sir, this is strange work. A committee undertaking to guide, in a case where they admit they have not looked for either truth or law—prescribing a line, which they admit to be neither true nor legitimate—abstaining from expressing an opinion, and yet forcing an opinion—making a sacrifice, and calling it a compromise—undertaking to save New Mexico, and saving her by giving away one-half, and purchasing the other half. This is strange work, and new work in the American Senate; but let us go on with it.

The committee propose a consideration in money to Texas for accepting their line. Upon what principle? It is an exchange of territory—a mutual cession—and Texas receives better than she gives. Is it for the remaining part of New Mexico? If so, it is unjustifiable to purchase what we already possess, and dangerous to rouse the questions to which the admission of Texan title to New Mexico would inevitably give rise. This is too serious a question to be lightly evoked. If the State of Texas now covers the Santa Fé country, as the bill and report of the committee admit, then the constitution and laws of Texas are in force there! and this is what the Senate will say if it sanctions the committee's bill; and what cannot be said without rousing great questions.

A moneyed consideration is to be paid to Texas, but how much is kept a profound secret, for the profound reason of preventing jobbing in this Texas stock. In the meantime it seems to be known in the knowing circles, that ten millions is the amount to be offered; and on that basis stock-jobbing is rife! and three hundred per centum has already been the advance. The chance of California for admission, and of the two territories for governments, rises and falls with this rise and fall of Texan stock. They are all in one cart together—California, Utah, New Mexico, Texas boundary, and Texas stock; and must all go through, or balk together; and all depends upon the Texas stock.

The committee say, in their report, it is not to be anticipated that Texas will refuse to accede to their liberal propositions. That, I presume, will depend upon the amount of money with which that carefully guarded blank is to be filled; and that is not to be filled until the last moment—until the bill is on its third reading. Then the filling is to come; and upon the quantity of it, I presume, the vote of the State of Texas is to depend—both the State in its rejection, or acceptance of the proposed terms, and her representatives here, as I would speak of my own State, and of myself, under the like circumstances. Our first duty is to our own State; and under the sense of that duty, the vote of the Texas Senators on this bill—this omnibus bill, in which the admission of California and governments to two Territories is mixed up with money to Texas—their vote upon the whole bill must depend. Money enough to Texas, and they go it! and all the measures are carried. Not money enough to Texas, and they balk! and all the measures are lost. It is not only an enormity in itself to make the passage of the other great measures dependent upon the amount of money voted to Texas, but it leads to a vicious and condemnable mode of fixing that amount. It leads to voting the amount, not which Texas ought to receive, but of what will pass the bill! and to the contrary, what will defeat the bill. Thus, those intent upon the bill must vote a large sum to secure the Texas vote: those opposed to it must vote a small sum, or nothing, in order to defeat it. This is vicious voting, and to be condemned everywhere. A jury that should make up a verdict in that way would have their verdict set aside, and themselves reprimanded. What should be done to us and our verdict under the same circumstances? For one, I confess the vice of my vote, and lay its blame on those who force me into the false position in which I am to vote. In a bill by herself, and for such a line as I propose, I would vote Texas a liberal sum: in this connection, and under these circumstances, not a cent.

Mr. President, there is something overruling in the affairs of men, which, in the end, brings out things right, and establishes the dominion of truth and justice; and never was this overruling superintendence more visible than now. Here are measures of the most discordant kind clapped together in one bill, in violation of all parliamentary law, and to the ruin of all fair legislation, in order to force some measures to carry others. It is the most flagrant case of parliamentary impropriety which the history of our legislation has ever presented; and, to rebuke and crush it, here is the highest proof of its enormity which the wisdom of man could have desired. Votes are nearly balanced on this floor, for or against this conglomerate bill. There are two Texas votes on this floor, and they count four—two off and two on—and every one knows that these votes will decide the fate of the bill, and that they themselves will be decided by the amount of money to be voted to Texas. Sir, I touch a point which is still ahead, and which I will not develop now. When we come to the filling up of that mysterious blank, so carefully guarded, I may be able to demonstrate that the effect of this conglomeration of bills, and that reservation of a blank, to be filled at the last moment, is to open an auction upon the floor of the Senate, for the votes which are to carry through the omnibus bill, with all its multifarious and heterogeneous contents. The filling of the blank may develop the fact, that the admission of California, and the establishment of governments for two Territories, may depend upon the amount of money to be paid to Texas; and, if it does, it will present the highest evidence of the flagrant enormity of tacking incongruous bills together which the history of American or British legislation has ever exhibited. The bill is caught *flagrante delicto*—taken in the fact—seized by the throat, and held up to public view—(and here Mr. B. grappled a bill and held it up) in the very act of perpetrating its crime—in the very act of auctioneering for votes to pass itself. I seize it in the act, and hold it up to public opprobrium, and make it an era to be recurred to, and its fate to stand as a warning against all future conjunctions of incongruous measures.

I beg my friends from Texas, (Messrs. Houston and Rusk)—and I call no man friend without being ready to stand for a friend when one is needed—I beg them to take what I say in the sense I intend it. In their place, I should do as they will do—vote for or against the bill, and all its measures, according to the amount of money to go into the blank—and with the same sentiment of profound humiliation which they must feel. And this shows the enormity of such natural conjunctions of discordant measure. And here I will use an argument but lately come to hand, but which ought to have its weight on this occasion. I allude to the new Constitution of Kentucky, and its salutary provisions against the ruinous practice of "log-rolling." In section thirty-seven of article two of that instrument, there is this provision: *Every bill shall contain but one subject, and that shall be clearly explained in the title.* This is the sentiment of Kentucky on the fatal practice of tacking incongruous bills together. She has pointed her constitutional cannon against it. True, we are not bound by the provisions of her constitution; but we are bound to respect the principle of morality in which it is founded, and of course to condemn and repudiate this omnibus bill, freighted with so many subjects, and dependent for its passage on the amount of money to be voted out of the public treasury to the State of Texas.

Sir, I have myself, in a bill now before the Senate, proposed a compact with Texas for the settlement of her western boundary; but I propose no mutual cessions—no exchange of territory—no dismemberment of New Mexico—no purchase of the Santa Fé country—no giving way our own territory, and paying Texas to take it. My proposal steered clear of all that folly and blunder. This is what I proposed:

"ART. 3. *The State of Texas cedes to the United States all her territory exterior to the limits to which she reduces herself by the first article of this compact.*"

And the limits then proposed by me for her reduction were the same as now proposed—102 deg. of west longitude, and 34 deg. of north latitude. This is all the cession my bill proposed—a cession from Texas only—and not of *all* the territory, but of all *her* territory exterior to her reduced limits. This avoided the consequences of a cession from her of the whole country, including New Mexico as a part of Texas. It avoided the consequence of holding the Santa Fé country as a purchase from Texas. It avoided the consequence of admitting all that country to have been a part of Texas. It avoided all the serious and disturbing consequences which the committee's bill would involve us. For such a line as I proposed to Texas, ceding no territory to her, accepting no title to New Mexico from her, leaving New Mexico intact, and conforming to ancient title and to present actual possession, I would vote fifteen millions of dollars; for such a line as the committee propose, not a copper.

The committee can find no excuse in my offer for theirs. And here I address myself most especially to that member of the committee (Mr. Cooper of Pennsylvania) who seems to have become its organ at this point; and I say to him, and through him to the committee, there is nothing in the one to justify the other. The two offers are as different as the two extracts from that sarsaparilla root—"*Heaven wide apart, and infinitely dissimilar, and not alike in any two particulars, and having no two qualities in common.*" One begins twenty miles, in a straight line, above El Paso—the other three hundred miles in a straight line below it. One is latidinal—the other longitudinal. One runs east—the other north. One cuts New Mexico in two—the other goes round her. One cedes seventy thousand square miles of New Mexico to Texas—the other cedes nothing to her. One accepts the remainder of New Mexico as a cession from Texas—the other holds her as a cession from the republic of Mexico. One conforms to ancient title, present possession, and geographical affinities—the other violates all these conditions. One raises the slave question, and in its double aspect of actual extension of Slavery into one half of New Mexico, and its implied legal existence in the other half—the other avoids both these questions by leaving both New Mexico and Texas just as they are. One admits the Texan laws and constitution to be in force in all New Mexico east of the Rio Grande—the other asserts the Mexican law to be in force there. These are some of the points of difference between my offer and the committee's, and which I thank the Senator from Pennsylvania, Mr. Cooper, to recollect the next time he speaks on the subject, and credit the differences on the right side of the account. But there is another difference, and of another kind, between the two offers, and which may be fully developed when we come to the work of filling up that copy and sensitive blank, upon which the committee are so dumb, and the knowing ones so knowing. My offer affects no other bill, or measure. It is in a bill by itself. It is a Texas bill, and confined to Texas. The money it proposes carries no influence, good or bad, to any other bill or measure—has no effect on the life or death of California, or the two territories. It carries no votes, for or against them—excites no stock-jobbing interest, for or against them. It is a parliamentary bill, confined to its own subject, unmixed with any question, claiming decision on its own merits alone, and leaving all other bills to be decided, in like manner, upon their own merits. This is a particular difference between the committee's bill and mine, in addition to all the other differences between them, and which, at the proper time, I shall more fully develop; and, in the mean time, must remind the senator from Pennsylvania not to overlook these differences when he comes again to fortify his intended vote for sacrificing New Mexico by a reference to my bill for saving her.

The committee, as a justification for ceding the one half of New Mexico to Texas, and then purchasing the other half from her, argue that it is the only way to prevent Texas from swallowing her all up. This was a great mistake in law, and a further mistake in fact, in supposing that the President—the then President, General Taylor—would not do his duty. There were three ways to save New Mexico without giving up any part of her to Texas. First, for the United States to occupy her as she was on the day of her cession by the republic of Mexico; secondly, by a suit in the Supreme Court: thirdly, by offering a fair compact, based upon the true boundary. By either of these three ways, New Mexico could be saved; and the late President, in a message before his death, let us know that he would do his duty, and maintain the possession until the question of title should be decided by the competent authority. This is his message:

"I have already, in a former message, referred to the fact that the boundary between Texas and New Mexico is disputed. I have now to state that information has been recently received that a certain Robert S. Neighbors, styling himself Commissioner of the State of Texas, has proceeded to Santa Fe with a view of organizing counties in that district, under the authority of Texas. While I have no power to decide the question of boundary, and no desire to interfere with it as a question of title, I have to observe that the possession of the territory into which it appears that Mr. Neighbors has thus gone, was actually acquired by the United States from Mexico, and has since been held by the United States, and, in my opinion, ought so to remain until the question of boundary shall have been determined by some competent authority. Meanwhile, I think there is no reason for seriously apprehending that Texas will practically interfere with the possession of the United States."

This is the message of the late President, and it is the law and the prohets, brief and simple, but true and wise, and putting to flight the main argument for the dismemberment of New Mexico. He tells you that he will maintain the possession, such as it was when the United States received it, until the question of boundary should be decided by the competent authorities. This is enough for us. We are in possession, and have only to retain it. These were the resolves of the late President, and there is no dispute about them. He spoke for himself, and his words will stand, a monument to his memory—a monument to his judgment to see the right, and to his firmness in maintaining it. It was his last message, and the symbol of his character—brief, plain honest, wise, firm, and to the point. It was worthy to be the last message of General Taylor, and will go into the heads and hearts of the people, and will remain on the memory of his country longer than graven words can remain on stone or brass. I make no allusion to the present President. It would be unparliamentary and indecorous to do so. He has sent us no message. But we are bound to believe that he will do his duty, as he understands it, and at all events we have no right to act upon a contrary supposition—to suppose that the President will not maintain the attitude of his predecessor, and thereby make it necessary for Congress to do something in his place.

Mr. President, we are a government of divided powers—legislative, executive, and judicial—and no one department has the right to assume that another department will not do its duty, and thereupon assume those duties itself, or do something that it ought not to do, on the supposition that the other department will do nothing. Such assumptions and interferences are the bane of all government, and the excuse for much wrong. We have seen how mistaken it was to assume such a thing of the late President—it was to suppose that he would not do his duty in maintaining the possession of New Mexico—and make that supposition our excuse for giving her away. It may be equally mistaken to make the same supposition to his successor; but I will not suppose one way or the other. I rest on the principle of parliamentary law and decorum, and will not suppose, or presume, a delinquency of duty on the part of any other department of the government; and, rising above all party feeling, shall hold myself ready in the case of President Fillmore, as in that of President Taylor, to sustain him in the full execution of all his constitutional duties when I believe him to be right.

The late President in that same message, informed Congress that he saw no reason to apprehend that Texas would practically interfere with the possession of the United States. The expression was honorable to him. It was as much as to say that he did not believe that Texas would commit a breach of law and order, and set an example of violence and bloodshed in the assertion of a contested claim. I do not know whether circumstances had occurred to induce him to qualify that opinion, but I join him in it; and if, unfortunately it should turn out to be a mistake, and Texas troops should be marched upon New Mexico, I have my future course to find in my past conduct, and to do by the Texas authorities what I did by the Missouri authorities, in a similar case, a few years ago. And here I touch a point which I have never made public in relation to my own conduct and that of my then colleagues in the boundary dispute between the state of Missouri and the territory of Iowa. Every body knows of the dispute, and how the two Governors levied troops, marched battalions, and prepared to fight battles; but no one knows how these warlike preparations were stopped. I will tell you how it was done. When the Missouri delegation here heard that their Governor was marching troops upon Iowa, they got together, consulted on the case, and addressed a private letter to the Governor to let him know that they could not support him in such a movement, and recommending the cessation of military and the commencement of judicial proceedings. The advice, or something else, prevailed: military operations stopped, judicial proceedings began, Missouri lost the land, but gained the honor of submitting to the laws of the land.

Dr. Linn, whose brother and nephew sit on my left, (Mr. Dodge, of Wisconsin, and Mr. Dodge, of Iowa,) was then my colleague in the Senate, ex Governor Miller was then Governor of Arkansas, and I was in the House of Representatives. We were friends together. We united in the letter; and, satisfied with its effect, never told what we had done; nor should I now tell it, except to give the example of Missouri in a case similar to that of Texas, and to show in my past conduct what may be my future conduct if troops are marched upon New Mexico. The Senator from Iowa, nephew of Dr. Linn, (Mr. Augustus Dodge,) was then a delegate from Iowa, and knew all about our conduct, except the letter. I am for law, and order, and the support of the constituted authorities—for doing my own duty, in my own sphere, and leaving it to the Executive and the Judiciary to do theirs in their spheres.

I return to my motion—the motion to strike out the committee's line, which begins twenty miles above El Paso, and to insert the one which I propose, and which begins three hundred miles below that point. If the line I propose is adopted, we shall save all New Mexico get the surplus territory to which Texas has a rightful claim, and have a justifiable cause for paying her a good sum of money. If the committee's line is adopted there will be no justification for paying Texas a cent; and upon the question of these two lines, naked and apart from all other questions, I now wish the vote of the Senate, and ask the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

National Anti-Slavery Standard.

Without Concealment---Without Compromise.

NEW YORK, THURSDAY, AUGUST 22, 1850.

THE WEST INDIA JUBILEE.

At the celebration of this glorious event, in Worcester, on the First of August, the Chairman, (Mr. Garrison,) in the course of the proceedings, paid a merited compliment to the Scottish abolitionists, as among the earliest, most devoted, persevering and indomitable friends of emancipation, and expressed the hope that the meeting would be addressed by one whom he now saw present from Scotland, (J. B. SYME, of Edinburgh, and now assistant editor of *Burritt's Christian Citizen*,) a gifted, philanthropic, and world-wide reformer.

Mr. SYME then came forward, and was received with loud applause. The following is the substance of his remarks on the occasion:

MR. CHAIRMAN—This anniversary, independent of the act which has hallowed it, possesses a somewhat peculiar interest for one, who has accidentally been born and educated in the country where this question of negro emancipation was discussed and brought to an issue. I was but a child with dawning reason when this act of justice to the people of the West Indies was about being consummated in Great Britain, but I remember well how eagerly, in the little rural village in which my boyhood's years were passed, groups of hard-handed, thoughtful-eyed men, without any suffrage themselves, would gather at night to listen as some one read aloud from the newspapers a speech which Clarkson and Buxton had just delivered against this foul thing of Slavery; and I remember how their words of condemnation and reprobation would flow.

The emancipation act of 1834 is not altogether a beautiful and spotless act of British legislation. It is not so lovely and consistent in the real as it is in the ideal. The British Parliament deserves no credit for it, because although that Parliament of slaveholders, pressed by the omnipotent opinion of the people, conceded emancipation, it allowed itself one hundred millions of dollars as compensation for fulfilling the law of God, which bade it unbind the captive and let him go. If this act does not receive any dignity of eclat from the issue of the Parliamentary jugglers, who ostensibly consummated it, it shall ever be remembered and recorded as one of the noblest deeds of a poor, oppressed, but generous people. I recollect that this question was discussed in the debating clubs of the artizans, and on public platforms; and always where the working-men, those men of heart, of feeling, of nature, of toil, had a voice to utter, that voice was 'break the hated bondage-irons from our toiling brothers' limbs, and let them go free.' The people of Great Britain were disgusted at this proposition of compensation. Compensation to those who have robbed the people of Jamaica, first of themselves, then of their toil, they said. The idea is as disgusting, as the proprosition is atrocious and preposterous. We can perceive the justice of compensating the man of color, for the injuries and wrongs that have been heaped upon him; for requital of the toil of which he has been despoiled; but to compensate men for the cessation of brigandage, to legitimatize gross and unhallowed usurpation of human rights, is more than we can perceive to be right with that mediocrity of logic which nature has given us. Still, they shouted, lifting up their sinewy arms, and showing the poor habiliments that covered their noble bosoms; still, before the slaves in the West Indies shall remain one other hour in bondage, let the Shylocks of legislation have their pound of flesh.

The unenfranchised, over-taxed, half-fed, poorly-clad, but whole hearted people, the laboring people of Great Britian, in the market places, and in their churches and public halls, voluntarily conceded to the rich—the mammonocracy—one hundred millions of dollars as the fee demanded by these turnpike-men of liberty, before the eight hundred thousand bondmen of the West indies could pass the bar of personal freedom, and say to themselves individually, 'I am mine.' If we look at this act of emancipation as an act of the *bona fide* people of Great Britain, it stands without a parallel in the annals of history. It is a poor oppressed people, generously giving, from the abundance of their heartfelt sympathy and love of liberty, the purchase money of a nation; to raise which they mortgaged their own labor and that of their posterity.—They did not talk with physiological nicety about the color of the skin, or texture of the hair of the oppressed; they did not, with an important assumption of philosophic airs, discuss the relative dignity of the races of men, and weigh out philanthropy in drachms and scruples. They knew that their brethren of humanity were suffering; robbed of all they held most dear; and as they spurned to be so base as to be voluntary slaves themselves, so did they spurn to be traitors to that eternal principle of liberty which declares 'That God gave to man over beast, fish, fowl and creeping thing, dominion absolute, but man over man he made not Lord, such title to himself reserving; human left from human free.'

Forgive me for dwelling so long upon the circumstances of this act of 1834; those circumstances are amongst the earliest and most vivid of my memories. Those circumstances were to me the first illustrations of the visible activities of two opposing ideas—the ideas of liberty and oppression. Those circumstances were the earliest demonstrations to my eyes of that life of truth, and justice, and liberty in the British heart, which was stirring to separate itself from the death of the past, that it might clear the way for men into a true, a consistent, a vital future. I will not say that the principle of Slavery is extinct in Great Britain: but this I know, that I have observed from that time, and am convinced, that the general heart and the general reason of Great Britain are faithful to a pure and heavenly ideal of liberty.

It is delightful, and yet it seems sad to me, to stand here in the heart of this Commonwealth, in the centre of this great democratic Republic, to refer to West India Emancipation, not as a thing to be remembered, but as a beacon-light to be observed—an example to be followed. I feel grateful for the virtue that can bring so many men of genius, of courage, and of action to this place to sympathize with that act; and yet I feel sad that seventy-four years ago cause was not given to render that act a sequel, an effect of a greater and nobler act of emancipation still; the emancipation act of humanity from feudalism and despotism, consummated when this Republic of the United States was established.

This, however, is not the place for me to discuss the internal workings of Slavery. The domestic character of that institution I leave to the exposure of those who have seen and suffered from it, and are infinitely more competent to paint its horrors and disclose its shame. But there is one aspect of Slavery, and to my mind a very important one, to which, with your permission, Mr. Chairman, I will allude. I refer to the relative moral influence which this institution exercises towards general liberty, and upon the progress of European democracy.

Every man whose moral perceptions have not been destroyed by the logic of Slavery, will perceive that in an abstract sense, the institution of Slavery in this Republic is a subject of the most vital importance to the poor oppressed men who are struggling for franchise against the despotisms of the Old World. Precedent is one of the most potential facts; and facts, whatever may be said to the contrary, are the most powerful of arguments. Precedent is one of the most powerful of all despotisms. Error that has the prestige of antiquity operates more powerfully upon the majority of mankind than the most beautiful abstract truths. This world is ever and anon the slave of habit and routine. So much so, that men themselves do not perceive it, but call their hereditary habits instincts. The opinions of our grandfathers become the canonized faith of the majority; free thought is only the prerogative of the few who have boldly and faithfully followed truth.

Example or precedent is not only strong to perpetuate what is, but it is also the most powerful moral stimulant to progress. A Republic, although imperfectly organized, is a more vital republican argument than the glorious abstractions of Plato, or the beautiful Eutopias of Moore. A Republic, with 'Liberty, Equality, Fraternity,' as the dogma of its legislations, and with consistency in acting, although it might live only three months, like glorious modern Rome, is still an argument for freedom that eternity cannot efface. But recollect, to be an argument of any power, of any effect, it must be consistent. For seventy-four years, the democracy of the Old World—of Greece, the Greece of Miltiades and Aristides; of Italy, the land of Tiberias and Caius Gracchus, Cornelia's free-soil sons, and of Joseph Mazzini, a greater even than they; of France, the country of Virginaud and Lamartine; of Hungary the mother of Kossuth; and of Britain, the birth-place of Hampden; for seventy-four years have the thinking men of these countries, who mourned for the European peoples, and who had dreamed of their jubilee-day of liberty as not afar off, when the star of this Republic arose; seventy-four years have they looked with sorrow at that splendid abstraction of democracy which your grandfathers endorsed with their swords and sealed with their blood; but which this living, moving, shameless institution of Slavery, with brazen front and froward step, delights to make a lie. In consequence of this institution, America exercises not a tithe of her legitimate moral influence abroad. She not only ceases to be an argument for democracy, but she actually loses her power to inspire men, who have no suffrages, with democratic hope. A democracy is impossible, say the oligarchs; humanity cannot sustain such a system.—Yes, it is possible, cry the democrats; look, for example, to America! To South Carolina, or Louisiana? asks the logician with a sneer. The logic is not strictly legitimate, yet it is omnipotent. The poor, discomfitted friend of democracy can only cover his burning face with his hands, and turn away for very shame. And again, how banefully it acts upon the proletarian. I have heard working men declare that they were satisfied with their degraded political position, because there did not exist one practically just democratic government; there was no where to be found a reality of human freedom.

O, if my tongue were possessed with persuasive eloquence enough to win for me the ear of this nation, and if my voice could reach its heart, I would appeal to it to abolish this institution of Slavery, not only because it degrades one great member of the human race—not only on account of the domestic iniquity and misery which it perpetuates—but because it helps relatively to rivet the galling chains of political Slavery and social misery upon the nations of the East. Let America strike off those bondage-irons from the limbs of her slaves; and let her stand up with that Cain-mark of Slavery wiped from her face in her purity and consistency, and she will do more to advance liberty and extinguish tyranny, than all the barricades of France or the sabres of Germany can ever do. The weary world, as well as the weary slave is panting for her to do this. Why in the name of reason, of liberty, and of God, does she linger over this act of justice, and of her own eternal glory?

During the meeting the following communication from an unknown hand was read by the Chairman, It elicited much applause from the large assembly.

WORCESTER, AUGUST 1, 1850.

MY DEAR SIR:

The writer of the following lines is indentified with no sect, wedded to no party, and is committed to no line of policy in the great work of redeeming this world from the reign of violence, saving as full a co-operation with all those who 'fear God and work righteousness' as, in the circumstances which from time to time arise, he is able to give. If you see fit to do so, you are at liberty to read the lines to the Convention over which you preside, as *his word* for the slave, on this deeply interesting occasion.

To the President of the Anti-Slavery Convention.

FREEDOM'S VOW.

A vow! in the presence of God—
In the name of his merciful Son—
We have solemnly made it; and whether the years
Of toil that await us be burdened with fears,
Or gladdened with hope, as they run,

Freedom's vow through them all must abide,
In the purpose and strength of to-day!
We have written it deep on the tables within,
And till bondage is named with the things that have been.
The record shall not fade away.

'And what though in Church, as in State,
There are traitors to barter the RIGHT!
Let them compromise freedom—they labor in vain;
Their bonds—they shall snap, like the vile tow, in twain,
When the people arise in their might,

We have sworn that the slave shall come forth
From the house of his bondage in peace;
Our cry shall ring boldly o'er mountain and glen,
Till, acknowledged and honored, a MAN among men,
He shall hail the glad 'year of release.'

We wield no mad engines of war—
No steel flashes death at our call;
Our weapons are principles, holy and true—
They are formed, not to crush, but to pierce and subdue
The heart wheresoever they fall.

And these God-honored weapons shall fall,
Like flashes of heaven's own light!
The cold-blooded statesman shall quail in his tower,
And his recreant priestly adviser shall cower,
While the bondman shall joy at the sight.

Up, then, toilers of every name,
Whose vow has been passed for the slave!
Strike cheerily, faithfully, manfully; lo!
The bulwarks of bondage are yielding as dough!
Strike home! for ye smite but to save.

O Thou, whose high mission to earth,
Was the outraged and chained to set free,
Smile success to the workers in freedom's tried band,
And speedily kindle the day when our land
Shall rejoice with the 'isles of the sea'!

THE SOUTHERN PROTEST.

Below is a copy of the protest to the admission of California into the Union, which ten of the Southern Senators asked leave to have entered upon the journal of the Senate. A spirited debate took place, and the request was opposed mainly and refused on the ground of a want of precedent:

We, the undersigned, Senators, deeply impressed with the importance of the occasion, and with a solemn sense of responsibility under which we are acting, respectfully submit the following protest against the bill admitting California as a State into the Union, and request that it may be entered upon the journal of the Senate. We feel that it is not enough to have resisted in debate alone, a bill so fraught with mischief to the Union, and the States which we represent, with all the resources of argument which we possessed, but that it is also due to ourselves, the people whose interests have been entrusted to our care, and to posterity, which, even in its most distant generation, may feel its consequences, to leave, in whatever form may be most solemn and enduring, a memorial of the opposition which we have made to this measure, and of the reasons by which we have been governed, upon the pages of a journal which the constitution requires to be kept so long as the Senate have an existence. We desire to place the reasons upon which we are willing to be judged by generations living, and yet to come, for our opposition to a bill, whose consequences may be so durable and portentous, as to make it an object of deep interest to all who may come after us.

We have dissented from this bill, because it gives the sanction of law, and thus imparts validity to the unauthorized action of a portion of the inhabitants of California, by which an odious discrimination is made against the property of the fifteen slaveholding States of the Union, who are thus deprived of that portion of equality

yet his testimony has gone forth as that of a guardian of the law! Let us examine into one of these statements in particular—that which ascribes not only the use of arms, but the *initiative*—in other words, that CHAPLIN fired the first shot, and thus commenced the bloody work which the riddled carriage shows to have been enacted. Now, it will turn out that CHAPLIN not only did not fire the first shot, and that he never fired at all, but that the shooting, on the part of the assailed, was done by the slaves—there being much less of it on their part than on the part of the assailants. CHAPLIN, as I understand it, had not time to fire a pistol. Simultaneously with the "checking" of the wheels and seizing of the horses, he was stricken a heavy blow, which BUTTS, (one of the slave-dealers or catchers,) I understand, confesses, or rather boasts, that he inflicted. The next moment he found himself on the ground, throttled and belabored by two or three of these men, in the most ferociously brutal manner—so much so that he had good reason to apprehend that their intent was murder outright! It is believed that they would have murdered him, if he had not appealed to Capt. GODDARD: and he, I understand, is now denounced by the tigers as an "Abolitionist," because he did interfere. And yet these are they who have made the complaint of assault and battery, with intent to kill, on the strength of which a requisition has been made for him by the Governor of Maryland! If the testimony of such witnesses, under such circumstances, is to prevail, even in a pro-slavery Maryland Court, then may justice be said to have fled the tribunals of the law, utterly! Such a course would convert court trials into the cruelest farces imaginable.

But the fact happens to be that Mr. CHAPLIN is a "peace man," and therefore the story of the resort to violence on his part has done him great injustice, calculated, as it was, to undermine and destroy the confidence of his friends at home.

☞ When subscribers give directions for the change or discontinuance of their papers, we do wish they would give us their name and late post address. It is very annoying to receive a note or return paper with a request to "discontinue," without further direction. Of course we have no means of knowing whether the paper has been sent to Maine or Texas. When a change of address is ordered, the Post Office, *old* and *new*, should *both* be stated.

CONGRESSIONAL.

Monday, the 19th, being the day by special order of the Senate for the consideration of the Fugitive Slave Bill after the transaction of the morning business it was taken up.

Mr. Mason moved to amend it by striking out all after the enacting clause, and inserting a substitute for the entire bill.

Mr. Dayton moved to amend the amendment by substituting the bill laid on the table, several weeks since, by Mr. Webster, which he briefly supported. It provides, that if the alleged fugitive shall declare that he owes no service to the claimant, the right of the claimant shall be decided, finally, without delay, by the finding of a jury.

Mr. Mason opposed Mr. Dayton's amendment. He was satisfied that if its provisions were adopted, the bill would be utterly ineffectual and useless; if the trial by jury was adopted, it would be considered conclusive evidence of the refusal on the part of the Federal Government to perform its duty, in relation to the delivery of fugitive slaves.

Mr. Dayton replied, contending that there was no safer ground on which the slaveholder could rest his rights, than the verdict of twelve honest men.

Mr. Berrien called the especial attention of the Senate to the principle of the amendment granting the trial by jury, and expressed the hope that Southern gentlemen would allow the question to be taken up without debate. He asked the yeas and nays on the amendment, and they were ordered.

In the course of some remarks by Mr. Winthrop, in support of the amendment

Mr. Butler enquired whether he had ever heard of a case in which an attempt was made to assert a false claim, by which a free man was held as a slave?

Mr. Wales referred to several such cases, and Mr. Walker also recited several similar cases; and among others, one in which a white girl was scarcely rescued from the claim of a kidnapper.

Mr. Underwood said the provision for a jury trial would not satisfy the people of Kentucky, and he advocated an amendment of the act of 1793, which should provide for the execution of that law by the Federal officers, to whom such duty should be assigned.

Mr. Cass desired a simple amendment of the law of 1793, the main feature of which, he thought, ought to be resumed. That act laid down four principles to which he was prepared to adhere:—First; The right of the master to arrest his fugitive slave wherever he may find him. Second; His duty to carry him before a magistrate in the State where he is arrested, that the claim may be adjusted by the magistrate. Third; The duty of the magistrate to examine the claim and to decide, like other examining magistrates, without a jury; and then to commit him to the custody of the master. Fourth; The right of the master then to remove his slave to his residence.

After further debate, the amendment was rejected. Yeas 11; Nays 27.

Mr. Chase moved to amend Mr. Mason's amendment by the insertion of a provision for a jury trial to test the question of claim or no claim, being the same in effect as the amendment just voted on. This amendment also was rejected.

Mr. Winthrop moved an amendment, securing the right of Habeas Corpus to alleged fugitives, and providing for a judicial review of the decisions of the proposed commissioners; which, after a debate, was also rejected. Yeas 11, nays 26.

The further consideration of that bill was then postponed until to-morrow.

The Supplemental Census bill was taken up, and the amendments of the House were disagreed to, after which the Senate adjourned.

Domestic Correspondence.

From Our Boston Correspondent.

NO. LXV.

THE ARGUMENT.—*Civilization and Christianity again vindicated—The Moral Lesson—Scenic Effect—The Stage Manager—The Tableau—Who the Chief Actor was—A timid Jury—A courageous Executive—"A great deal to do!"—Rev. E. T. Taylor—His occupation—His success—His prayer—The Correspondent making a suggestion—He gives his sentiments—New proof of efficacy of hanging—In Dr. Webster's case—Dr. Webster's Confession—Elements of a true one—Wanting in this—Dr. Putnam's agency in procuring it—Distinction between Catholic priest and Protestant minister—Its effect on the Executive—Plan which it defeated—The number of petitions—The wealth and respectability—The obedient Pack—Sigma again—Whom he blameth and whom he pitieth—The Correspondent comforteth the Editor—President Taylor's Boston Funeral—Its pleasantness and the enjoyment of it.—&c., &c., &c.*

BOSTON, Aug. 17th, 1850.

Since I wrote to you last Massachusetts has furnished another of those instructive spectacles, the occasional recurrence of which is essential to maintain her character for Civilization and Christianity. The great Moral Lesson of a Hanging has been read again for the instruction of all who it may concern, and with additions all tending to the greater edification. The scenic effect was excellent. The properties were of the best description. A new and valuable improvement was introduced in the *Drop*. The Stage Manager was the Rev. Edward T. Taylor, (whom the Boston merchants employ to keep the souls of their sailors in good shipping order,) and under his direction the final *Tableau* had the most brilliant and gratifying success. The chief actor, as I suppose you know, was Daniel H. Pear son the murderer of his wife and children. This poor wretch seemed scarcely to be an accountable being, so low was the condition of his intellect and so slight was the line that seemed to separate him from lunacy. So apparent was this on the trial that the jury refused to convict him, except with a recommendation to mercy on this ground, notwithstanding the unprecedented horrors of his deed. The Governor and Council, however, took the responsibility, which the jury shrunk from, and decided that he was sane enough to be hanged. So hanged he was.

At the time the day of execution was fixed, some one asked a member of this intrepid body why they allowed him so long an interval (about three months), to which he replied, with admirable simplicity, that "*they thought he had a great deal to do!*" This considerateness, however, was quite thrown away upon him; for he persisted in disbelieving that they had any intention of hanging him, almost to the last. About a week before the fatal day they called in Mr Taylor, (who undertakes the salvation of souls at the shortest notice,) who put him handsomely through and despatched him to Heaven with a certificate of satisfactory conversion, duly authenticated. This holy man, it is said, took the occasion of the execution to pray against those that are trying to abolish that compendious method of translating newly regenerated saints to Paradise. He wrestled with God for the same blessing when poor Goode was put to death, a year ago, and doubtless regards this last hanging as a special answer to prayer. I wonder, however, that he does not consider that just such sort of people are greatly needed for the Conversion of the World, and that it would be a better use to put them to, to make ministers rather than pendulums of them. But not taking this view of the matter, he cheerfully encouraged his neophyte to mount the gallows with all confidence, as one that had nothing to fear, and he, accordingly, made a most edifying end.

I have nothing to say against any appliances which may make tolerable or easy the last moments of a wretch about to be put to death under circumstances of such horrid barbarity. As far as he is concerned, I am content that he should find comfort in fanatical views of religion, in laudanum, in chloroform, or in New England rum. But is it easy to imagine anything better calculated to bring true religion and genuine morality into ridicule and contempt than such a conversion and such a scene as the execution of poor Pearson? By the way, a curious illustration of the efficacy of capital punishments as a preventive of crime was afforded last week, in Chelsea, by a man who attempted the life of his wife in almost precisely the manner that Pearson killed his. The attempt was not successful; but, had it been, it would have been quite as unquestionable a case of deliberate murder. And, while on this subject, I would say that I have heard from good authority that poor Dr. Webster, who is now awaiting the same horrid end, had a taste in his youth, like the famous George Selwyn, for going to executions, and that when he was in London, near forty years ago, when the hospitable Sheriffs used almost every Monday to send their friends this notice, "Hang at eight, breakfast at nine," he very seldom missed one of those hebdomadal entertainments. I recollect his giving me, when I was in college, a ticket of admission to the yard of the very jail where he now lies, to witness the execution of one Colson, for the murder of Captain Selfridge, son of the man that shot Austin in State street about forty years ago. The object of the invitation was to admit me to see his galvanic experiments on the body. But I had not the pluck to go, and gave the ticket to a less squeamish class-mate. How strange would have sounded to him that day if some prophet could have foretold to him that he himself would end his life by the same violence, on that very spot!

This reminiscence reminds me that I have never spoken of this unhappy man, since his confession. It is a subject that one does not like to dwell upon, and I have deferred speaking of it until it could be disposed of once for all. The confession came upon me, as it did upon all the world, by surprise. I had fully believed that he would have died and made no sign, leaving to his wife and children, widowed and orphaned even while he lived, at least the inheritance of a belief in his innocence. This consolation they had, as I know from the best authority, in the highest degree, until it was ravished from them by that cruel confession. Of course, I do not mean to condemn a criminal for making a purely spontaneous confession of his crime, extorted by the force of conscience or a desire to make what amends he can to Society for the injury he has done it, however afflictive it may be to his family. But it must be purely spontaneous, and made when it cannot reasonably be hoped to have any mitigating effect upon his sentence, to entitle it either to credence or respect. This confession possessed neither of these elements. It was made at a time when, if believed, it might have been of some weight with the Executive mind, and it was obtained by a surprise which entirely deprived it of all character of spontaneity.

I cannot but think the course which Dr. Putnam took to procure it extremely reprehensible. A Catholic priest who believed that the salvation of his penitent depended on Confession and Absolution, and that the responsibility was upon him to procure the one as well as to give the other, might justify to himself any necessary device, on the ground of its pious purpose. But I apprehend that a Protestant minister claims to be nothing more than the adviser and friend of the condemned man and holds himself accountable only for the soundness of the advice he gives him, not for its effect upon him. If in consequence of his representations the criminal is moved to make a full disclosure of his misdeed, of his own accord, it is a natural and proper course of things. But I conceive that any plan or arrangement whereby a confession is suddenly extracted from the party, which, perhaps, he would not have made had he had time for reflection, savours too much of the Inquisition or the Torture Chamber for Protestantism and Republicanism. Dr. Webster was the only responsible keeper of his own soul and conscience, and if he chose to die with a lie in his mouth, he alone was accountable for it. A confession, to have any moral weight or to carry any conviction of its truth, should have every possible evidence of full deliberation and voluntary expression. This, certainly, lacked such confirmation. And, consequently, very few persons believed any part of it, except the acknowledgement that he killed Dr. Parkman.

It was of no service to him in his application to the Executive for mercy. I do not suppose that he would have had much chance for pardon or commutation, under any circumstances; but the confession sealed his doom effectually. There was a plan maturing for acting upon the Governor and Council, which had at least a plausible look and might have been successful (though not probably), which the presentation of the confession effectually demolished. This scheme took for the basis of its operations Dr. Webster's absolute innocence, as set forth in his original petition. Affidavits from a number of persons, besides those testifying on the trial, declaring that they had seen Dr. Parkman after the hour of his disappearance on Friday, evidence that lights were seen in Dr. Webster's rooms at hours when he could be proved to have been in Cambridge, and other testimony which must have had its influence with the Council, even if it were inadmissable in a Court of Justice, would have made up a case which must have demanded most serious consideration. It was not proposed, as I understand, to ask for pardon or commutation; but, simply, for a postponement for a year, to give time for new evidence, or perhaps for the reappearance of the missing man himself. Had this been obtained, which was at least possible, a commutation would have been almost certain, when the case came up again, after the lapse of a year, for the decision of a new Council and perhaps of a new Governor. The confession, of course, put an end to all this.

The number of petitions was not great. The difficulty of obtaining signatures was much greater than in the case of Washington Goode. Dr. Webster's social position operated against him with great numbers, and his own class, excepting the few of his personal acquaintances who signed the strange Cambridge petition, refused him their help. The public sentiment of the wealthy and religious respectability of the State was dead against him. This being the case, of course the whole yelping pack that watch and obey the eye and word of their masters, opened mouth upon him eager to be in at the death. Among these, the Sigma of the *Transcript*, of whom I gave you some account in my last, was among the foremost. He signalized himself especially by assailing poor Mrs. Webster and her daughters for coming to the Council Chamber to implore mercy for their condemned husband and father!! Did you ever hear or read of the like? I forbear to characterize it. There are simple statements which defy epithets and expletives to make them stronger or more revolting. By way of relief, however, I would beg you to guess who it *is* that excites in this case the special pity and profound compassion of this most sibilant of Linguals. The wretched criminal? Not a bit of it. His miserable family? Of course not. Who then? Why, THE GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL!!! These sufferers, however, it must be admitted, have nobody to thank but themselves for their calamity. Nobody obliged them to serve, and there were plenty of people ready to take their places. But I hasten to relieve any uneasiness you may feel by assuring you that I saw them all at our President's funeral the other day, and that they seemed to be in the best of health and spirits.

I have taken up so much space that I must defer any account of that festive occasion until my next letter. I will only stop to say that it was an uncommonly pleasant one and all concerned seemed to enjoy it highly.—D. Y

Amalgamation—Horace Greely and the Colored Whig Voters and the Drunkard.

MR. EDITOR: On last Saturday, about noon, I had the Impudence to walk arm and arm through Cherry street with a white man. Well, I never! Oh, dear, I believe I shall go off with a flash!! I am so elated, or, at least, feel so elevated, that, whilst I am writing, it is almost difficult for me to sit still. I do wish some one would hold me. I feel—I feel as if the day of deliverance had come. What did I say, the day of deliverance had come? I am mistaken, at least for the present, no doubt. White men, and sometimes colored men, too, think it quite an honor to walk arm and arm together, or to eat, and even sleep with one another, especially when there is any money to be made by it. I recollect a case in point. Last summer, *The New York Society for the Promotion of Education among Colored Children* avertised for a teacher. Among the many applicants were two white men. One of the qualifications which one offered as a reason why he should be employed by the Society was, that he had *eat* and *slept* with colored people. I have learnt one thing in this world which to me, if not to your readers, may be of some profit: as long as I live, never to respect one person more than another because he has a skin not colored like my own. I recollect, six years ago, when travelling to Canada, with my family, on board the Lake steamer, I was told by the Captain that I could not sit and eat at the same table with white people, because I was colored. I told him I did not think it any honor to eat with them as white people, nor neither was it his place to decide what I considered to be a question of *right* and not of *principle*—that my money for first class fare, which I had paid, had *settled* that question both ways; and all he had to do, as the servant of the travelling public, was to serve them without regard to *color*. At another time, taking passage in the Harlem cars, on a visit to the Colored Orphans' Asylum, in company with my wife and another lady, the Conductor ordered us to *sit behind the door*, the place for colored people. Without giving myself time to think, I denied being a colored man, but told him I am a *man*; you are a colored man. Well, to all appearance, "he was white all over," except his clothes and hair. I have heard it said, with a slur, the way white people first came was, that when wicked *Cain* killed his brother Abel, God asked him—Cain, where's your brother? Cain said I don't know! Well, it is said that the lying Nigger (for he was black) knew all the time what had become of his brother. But God continued to ask him—Cain, where's your brother? Cain said I told you I don't know!! and he turned white with fright, and run off. But the case was different with my antagonist; for the retort was so sudden, he turned black, or, at least, I made him believe so, when I told him he was *the* colored man, and not me. He replied, if I am a colored man, I had a white father! I answered, with a sneering laugh, if the truth was known, no doubt my father was as white as his father. This was a sad blow under the fifth rib; he staggered against the back of the seat, half bending over towards me, rallied and made one desperate effort to gain the ground he had lost, but to no purpose; he faintly said, any how, I have not got *wooly hair*, and then slunked off like a whipt spaniel with his tail between his legs.

Horace Greeley, in his vaulting ambition to straddle the *Liberian Pony*, not long since, exultingly demanded the colored people to give the American nation stronger evidence of their fitness to live in this their native country. I should like to know what it is we have not done to merit at least his displeasure. I will endeavor to tell this modern Philosopher and wily Politician, for the one thousandth time, what we have done for *his* country, for we are told that this is not *our* country. Our fathers have toiled and labored, and their children have levelled your forests, tilled your lands, enriched the soil with their sweat and blood, cultivated the three greatest staple commodities upon which your *Commerce* is based, viz., *Cotton, Rice* and *Tobacco*. They have fought your battles, manned your ships of war, mingled their blood with that of your fathers, laid down their lives as a free will offering on the altar of freedom, and secured your Independence from British rule. For more than two hundred years, by the profits of their unpaid labor, our fathers have enriched this nation with treasures untold. All they have received in return are whips, chains, perpetual Slavery, and *imprisonment* whenever a free colored man sets his foot on slave territory. The whole world knows that we have done enough for you, and so does the *Honorable Horace Greeley*, Editor of the New York Tribune, know that we have done enough. But, for the love of *Power* and *Wealth*, of which he has in store an abundance, this cowardly-sapient-once-poverty-stricken-Editor, at the last November election, did, directly and collaterally, deceive a *few* misguided colored voters in this city. It is said Greely gave fifty dollars to electioneer for colored votes, to secure a Whig victory, by which "the city was saved from Loco-foco misrule" till the Ides of next November. There is *something* we have done for you, Horace! and now, reposing on his Whig laurels, so *cheaply* earned, still not satisfied with what the few colored voters had done for him and his party, ups with his Editorial club and gives us a rap on the head, and tells us we must do something *more* or leave the country. Probably, before we leave, he will want our votes to elect him Governor of the State, and President of the United States. Who knows! Guess we won't go!! We will stay, for the end is not yet!!! We will stick to Horace Greeley's coat tail till we get him in the White House and give him an overwhelming majority of colored Congressmen in both houses, to support him in his Philosophic Trancendentalisms. Shall we stay till that time, friend Greeley? *We will.*

But to my story. It is true that I did walk arm and arm, in open day, with a white man, and no person was offended, but politely gave us the *freedom* of the side walk. The truth is, the man was *beastly drunk*. He is Boss worker of sheet iron and tin ware. Every Saturday he makes it a point to have an old fashioned *spree*, such as I used to practice twenty years ago; but I have grown wiser since, and am now trying to do better. Well, the poor fellow, no doubt, was just turned out of a groggery, and, unable to walk, was sitting on a stoop, when, passing along Cherry street, I recognized my old friend; he begged me to assist him home, which I did. Now, under the same circumstances, I would be gallant enough, at any time, to take a poor defenceless white woman by the arm and lead her home. Wonder if they would mob me as they did Frederick Douglass, last May? In taking that poor miserable drunkard by the arm and leading him home to his wife and children, I done nothing more than my *duty*. I was "delivering the spoiled out of the hands of the" Rumseller. And further deponent saith not.

WILLIAM P. POWELL.

A CORRESPONDENT writes us from Cincinnatti, Ohio:

"It will be seen by the returns of the Gubernatorial election in North Carolina that Daivid S. Reid, the man who stood by James M. Root, J. R. Giddings, Hanibal Hamlin, David Wilmot, and others, in voting for the exclusion of Slavery in the Territory of Oregon, has been elected Governor of North Carolina. He is the only Anti-Whig candidate that has ever been elected, in the State, since the election was given to the people.

—"The canvass was conducted on the Slavery question; the Whigs denying the expediency of the Wilmot proviso, and the Democrats sustaining D. S. Reid, who has ever been a friend to the Proviso, and, when in Congress, voted for it in the Oregon Bill.—D. S. Reid leads Gov. Manly 3,500 votes: the averagee Whig vote being from three to eight thousand majority. Three cheers for North Carolina!

"Onward is the course of Freedom: State after State are coming into our ranks. Soon the 'Freeman's Rights' will be proclaimed from every hill-top from Maine to Texas. Onward my countrymen in the cause of Freedom!"

Foreign Correspondence.

From Our Dublin Correspondent.

Wendell Phillips.....Moses Stuart's 'Conscience and the Constitution'.....The Correspondent's views of the Professor as an expounder of Biblical literature.....Connaught.....The Estates Commission, &c., &c., &c.

DUBLIN, July 26, 1850.

MY DEAR GAY: I have to thank Wendell Phillips for Moses Stuart's "Conscience and the Constitution." I have read it all, and, considering that the learned Professor has been his life long an eminent expounder of Biblical literature, I must say he has played the Bible a very scurvy trick, after all. Laying aside the cloud of words that envelopes his conclusions, they appear to be, very briefly, these:

1st. That Slavery—bona fide Slavery, much the same as American Slavery—was the subject of special sanction by the law of Moses in the case of heathen captives who were to be bondmen forever.

2d. That the immense amount of quotations from the Old Testament pages which our friend Garrison has on his fingers' ends, denouncing oppression, and demanding liberty for the captive, the breaking of every yoke, and the opening of the prison doors for them that are bound, must have been intended not for the heathen, the permanent chattels personal, the *niggers* of that day, but for the fugitives from monarchical oppression, the Kossuths and Hungarians of old; since, if they had a universal application, Slavery would have been impossible.

3d. That Slavery is not a *malum in se*, like robbery or murder, since God sanctioned its existence amongst the chosen people; and God himself, says the Professor, can not sanctify *a malum in se*

4th. That it is contrary to the whole spirit of the gospel dispensation.

5th. That St. Paul was not opposed to Slavery, since he gives sundry advices to masters and slaves for the regulation of their conduct towards each other, in which, among other things, he recommends the slave to accept of his liberty if it drops into his mouth like a ripe pear, but, otherwise, he should not trouble himself particularly about it; somewhat in that philosophical way in which we make up our minds with "No matter, it will be all one a hundred years hence."

6th. That the Constitution protects the slave-owner in the possession of his property, and calls upon all the people of the United States who recognize the Constitution and the Union, and prize the blessings they confer, to return the flying bondman. [So say the Abolitionists.]

7th. That, in doing so, you may feel as cool as a cucumber, void of offence towards God or man, and wrapped up in the consciousness of your purity of intention, since Moses sanctions Slavery; since it is no malum in se; since St. Paul gave rules for its comfortable continuance; since the Constitution enjoins it, and the Union demands it; and since, although the spirit of the New Testament is opposed to it, it is meant to operate in the most gradual manner conceivable. Rome, we all know, was not built in a day; Christianity has had only 1800 years to operate, and it will probably demolish Slavery, by easy stages, in about 20,000 years.

These are not the learned Pundit's words, but they are the cream of his honest opinions. With such spiritual advisers, nobody need wonder that enthusiasm for Slavery and a warm love for Liberty beat high at one and the same time in millions of American bosoms.

I finished his pamphlet with the impression that, although Moses Stuart may be an honest man according to his light, his light is remarkably obscure, and that, between the conflicting claims of Moses the legislator, Paul the apostle, Daniel Webster the Statesman, the palpable tendencies and spirit of Christ's teachings, and the demands of the American Constitution, and the necessities of the "blessed Union," his head is in a state of hopeless confusion. I read his essay one fine Sunday, while enjoying a walk, with some friends, in the lovely county of Wicklow, and a tough job I found it; for, although the air was pure, and we had a pleasant breeze, I had to pause repeatedly, to take breath, when astounded afresh with amusement and amazement by the moral somersaults of the venerable scholar. I could not help thinking what a very cloudy state of mind is consistent with the possession of "a European reputation."

I, this day, had some conversation with an Englishman, a relation of my own, who has just returned from a visit to the western parts of the province of Connaught. The object of his journey was the idea of settling there himself if he found an opening for doing so with advantage to himself and his family. He returns filled with amazement at the barren, gloomy and forbidding aspect of the country, the miserable and depressed condition of the people, their extreme poverty, the absence of employment, and the apparent hopelessness of a change for the better. He thinks it is not a country for human beings to be compelled to live in. So far from hailing the benevolence that spends itself in settling there for the purpose of reclaiming waste lands, and trying to employ and elevate the people, he thinks that all such philanthropists would be much better employed in warning every body away from this bleak, mountainous, boggy, wet country, and enabling those who are there to remove to America, where the land is not bound up in a cursed, selfish, corroding monopoly, and where every one that chooses can get compensating employment—where the young are educated, and all have a chance of improving. You have probably heard that the settlement of many parts of Connaught is an event of comparatively recent occurrence. That the country was in past ages considered too poor for the habitations of man, and the predecessors of the present inhabitants were driven into the bogs and mountains, during some of the numerous confiscations and invasions, by the cry of "To Hell or Connaught!" showing that there was but a slender choice between them. The Encumbered Estates Commission is now in full operation. It exists under a recent act, and is empowered to bring to sale property or land which would otherwise have to await the ruinous process of the Court of Chancery, which frequently gave one shell to the creditor, the other to the debtor, and kept the oyster itself. The Commission is proceeding rapidly with its work. Many estates have been sold, and generally at such good prices as prove that there is still plenty of money in the country waiting for good modes of investment. The great estates will thus be, to some extent, subdivided; the number of proprietors will be increased, and the number of very wealthy and very poor absentees diminished, and, so far, some good will be effected. Still, the laws which regulate the relations of landlord and tenant remain unchanged; and until they are changed, and the peasants have some chance of holding proprietors like the peasantry of Western Europe, there is little chance for Ireland or for England either. The truth is, that there are many points of resemblance between a Slaveocracy and an Aristocracy, and the influence of both is, in many particulars, identical, in crippling the energies and paralizing the prospects of the country that endures their existence.

Yours, very truly,

RICHARD D. WEBB.

General Intelligence.

DREADFUL ACCIDENT.—FOURTEEN LIVES LOST.—The Boston papers of last evening contain letters from Lynnfield, August 15th, which gives the particulars of a distressing calamity which befel a pic-nic party on the Suntaug Lake, in that town. One of the correspondents gives the main facts thus:

"A party of about one hundred and fifty persons from Lynn and Saugus, came here on an excursion of pleasure. After having taken their dinner in pic-nic style, in the beautiful grove which skirts the lake, they obtained a paddle boat, and amused themselves by cruising round the shores, and the island in the pond. Several different companies of the party had made excursions in it with safety, but the last company met with a most terrible catastrophe. Twenty-five persons were on board the boat when she left the shore. As they approached the island, the paddle threw some water on one side of the deck; the company then passed to the other side. This caused that side to be wet, and they crossed back again.

"This was done several times, and these sudden changes of position caused the boat to rock violently. Some of the party, becoming frightened, got upon the seats, and this made the boat dip more. The company now became panic-stricken, and as one side went down into the water, some of the passengers sprang upon the wheel-house, which was in the centre of the boat, when unfortunately, the boat was completely capsized, bottom up. Mr. Jonathan Tarbox succeeded in getting on the bottom of the boat, and though he could not swim, he managed to save a number of lives. A man and boy who could swim, stripped themselves and swam to the shore. Although the boat was near the shore, in a quiet cove of the island, yet fourteen lives were lost!!

"The boat was constructed by covering two dorys with a deck, and placing a paddle, worked by a hand-crank, between them. The person who engaged the boat was told that it was safe for fourteen persons.—Twenty persons have made excursions upon it with safety; and this party would have met with no accident if they had kept still—it was the unnecessary rocking which led to this calamitous result."

We learn from another source that the party of pleasure comprised a portion of the Christian Church and Society of Lynn. The following list of the drowned gives their places of residence:

Mr. and Mrs. Robert Shurtleff, of Franklin, Mass., on a visit to Mr. Joseph Cheever; Mary Adelaide, daughter of Jacob I. Johnson, aged 14; Mrs. Howard and daughter; Miss Adams, of Boston; Miss Eliza Ann Young, of Lynn; two children of Mr. Ephraim Brown, of Lynn; Miss Green, of Marblehead; Miss Hepsibeth Maria Cheever, daughter of Joseph Cheever, aged 14; two children of Joshua C. Garland; Miss Mehitable Alley, aged 58.

By means of grappling irons the bodies were recovered, and were conveyed to the vestry of the Christian Church in Lynn. This awful calamity has thrown a gloom over the whole community where the deceased were known and beloved.—*Post.*

THE MORMONS IN ENGLAND.—Mr. Mackay has written for the *London Morning Chronicle*, a full and interesting account of the Mormons, a large number of whom are constantly emigrating from England to this country. He says that the Mormons boast of having an emigration fund of three and a half tons of California gold. Dr. Mackay saw and mixed much with these enthusiasts in Liverpool. He was introduced to one of their priests, who evinced the most friendly feeling, finding that he was the author of a piece of poetry which is in high favor amongst the sect. It seems that during the last ten years, the emigration of Mormons from England has been nearly 14,000, and that during the last year it amounted to 2500—chiefly farmers and mechanics of a superior class, from Lancashire, Yorkshire, Wales, and the southern parts of Scotland. "The growth of Mohamedanism," Dr. Mackay says, "rapid as it was, is not to be compared with the rise and growth of Mormonism."

THE POTATO.—A correspondent writing from Jamestown, Rhode Island, says that the blight has appeared upon the potato throughout that State. We are not aware what his means of information are, and therefore cannot say whether his report is correct or not.

But, our correspondent's statement is confirmed by the fact that the rust has made its appearance upon the potato tops in the western part of Maine. It is not known to what extent it prevails.

The *Wyoming* (N. Y.) *Mirror*, too, learns from a farmer in Warsaw, that the potato blight has begun to make its appearance in that neighborhood. The tops of some are dying, and on digging them, he finds that some of the patatoes have begun to rot.—*Sun.*

LARGE FORGERY.—Drafts to the amount of $30,000 have been recently presented to Messrs. Howland and Aspinall, in sums varying from $125 to $20,000, purporting to be drawn by Parker H. French. The negotiation of these drafts was accomplished by means of a forged letter of credit, of which the following is a copy:

NEW YORK, May 10, 1850.

PARKER H. FRENCH, Esq.:

DEAR SIR—Your favor of this morning has been received and duly considered. In reply we authorised you to value upon us at any time in the next six months in sums to suit your convenience. We have the confidence that you will use this important trust discreetly; and with many wishes for the success of your enterprise, we remain,

Your friends,
HOWLAND & ASPINWALL.

I certify that the above is a true copy from the original.
(Signed) E. B. BABBIT,
Br. Majr. and A. Q. M.

Messrs. Howland and Aspinwall aver that they never heard of Mr. P. H. French before the drafts were presented to them signed with that name; and that they never signed above, nor any similar letter of credit. It is possible that Mr. French's name has always been used without authority.

SIR JOHN FRANKLIN.—Letters have been lately received in this city from officers of the U. S. expedition in search of Sir John Franklin. The United States brig Advance reached Whalefish Island, which is on the western coast of Greenland, on the 24th of June, after a passage of thirty-two days from New York. The distance is not far from 3,000 miles. The Advance was obliged to shorten sail in order to allow the Rescue to keep up, but on the 19th she left the latter behind and went on. The Rescue reached the place of rendezvous on the 27th of June, three days after the Advance. At Whalefish Island they met one of the English expeditions, consisting of two barges and two small steamers.

As the vessels sailed Northward, the days began to grow longer and longer, until at length there was no darkness, and finally the sun remained above the horizon during the whole twenty-four hours. To our men the shining of the sun "all night" was singular enough, but to the Greenlanders it was nothing new. In the course of a few months, when winter sets in, the days will gradually shorten until it will be totally dark during the whole twenty-four hours. These days of darkness will continue for about two months.

The American Expedition was shortly to sail for Melville Bay, thence across Lancaster Sound to Cape Walker, and then to Melville Island, where it would winter. They had not met much ice thus far during the passage.—*Sun.*

Two negroes, supposed to be fugitive slaves from Missouri, were arrested in Bond county, Illinois, a few days since, and committed to prison, until their owners should have an opportunity to appear against them. They had about $70 in their possession, and said they came from the "Am-Bottom," in Missouri.

THE statue of the late Hon. John C. Calhoun has been found by the officers of the U. S. Revenue Cutter Morris. Lieut. Francis Martin will immediately return to the spot, with the sub-marine armour, for the purpose of properly slinging the box previous to hoisting. Lieut Martin informs us that the statue is in perfect order, and can be got up with but little trouble.

A PRO-SLAVERY MOB AT SAVANNAH.—There was considerable excitement at Savannah on Tuesday last, in consequence of a number of handbills having been posted, notifying the citizens that an abolitionist was to be tarred and feathered, the gentleman having made offensive remarks in the company of several ladies and gentleman. He was first ordered to leave the city, but having made a written statement, disavowing the offence, the excitement after a time subsided.

NEGRO AND INDIAN SUFFRAGE IN MICHIGAN.—The Michigan State Convention, now in session at Lansing, deliberating on the reconstruction of the Constitution of the Peninsular State, have adopted a clause extending the Elective Franchise to Indians and their descendants, and have also adopted a Resolution submitting to the People, as a separate proposition, the question of extending the same sight to the African race.

MOUNT VERNON.—*The Republic* states that Mr. Washington, the proprietor of the family home and sepulchre of his illustrious relative, has so far yielded to the desires of the public as to grant permission, under certain restrictions, to the proprietors of a steamboat to land passengers there on three days of each week. The restrictions relate to the exclusion of a bar and whatever else may lead to disorder or any species of impropriety. These privileged trips will be commenced in a few days.

RITES OF VOUDON.—NEGRO SUPERSTITION.—The police of New Orleans have discovered a singular superstitious rite which the negroes of the Crescent city have been in the habit of practising. On entering the house of Betsy Toledana to arrest her on the charge of unlawfully assembling a meeting of free negroes and slaves, they found one of the rooms fitted up as a kind of a chapel, with portraits of saints and apostles on the walls, an altar with a number of bowls thereon filled with variegated stones, and also goblets and vases containing different colored liquids. A number of colored women who were present escaped. Betsy stoutly defended herself from every criminal imputation, asserting that the ceremonies which she practised were derived from her grandmother, who brought them from the western coast of Africa, that the stones were intended to protect the building from lightning, by placing them in water during a storm, and with the shells which she exhibited, she asserted she could control the weather, bring on rain, &c. Any one in the United States who is at all observant of the negro race there, must have noticed similar superstitions, particularly among those who dwell upon the plantations.

IDIOCY.—A careful exploration of one hundred towns in Massachusetts, brought to light five hundred and seventy five cases of idiocy. Of these, four hundred and twenty were idiots from birth, and of this number they obtained information respecting the parents of three hundred and fifty nine. In all but four of these examined cases, it was found that one parent or the other, or both, had in some departed from the laws of life and health, being either scrofulous, predisposed to brain affections, intemperate, grossly sensual, or unnaturally intermarried with blood relations. The lessons taught by such disclosures should prove a warning.

EARTHQUAKE AND VOLCANIC ERUPTION IN THE MOLUCCAS.—Private advices from Ambroya, received in England, announce the occurrence there of a severe earthquake, after which an epidemic broke out, which carried off nearly all the European population. Governor Cleerens and most of the civilians had died, and the garrison was reduced to seventeen men. From Ternate, it is also stated that there had been some eruptions of the volcanoes just before midnight on the 28th February, preceded by a rumbling sound like thunder, and a concussion like gun-shots. A shower of ashes were thrown out and fell into the sea. A few days before, and also on the day of the eruption, it had rained heavily.

A FEMALE Medical College is about coming into operation at Philadelphia under highly favoraple auspices. Lectures to commence first Monday in October, and continue four months. The object of the Institution is thus described: "Our object is not merely to qualify Females as Practitioners of Medicine, but to teach "woman to know herself," to understand her organism, and by the knowledge thus obtained, the important relations of wife and mother. We desire to throw open to them those avenues of Science, from which they have been so long excluded, by representing in a full course of lectures the great and wonderful improvements of the age. To accomplish this, no expense has been, or will be, spared."

THE Southern Press, the Slavery organ at Washington, is afraid that the late tailor's strike in the city of New York, will lead to a general disorganization of society, and hints at a second French Revolution. Poor fellow!

MARRIAGES.

JENNESS—MOORE.—At York, Mich., August 12, J. Sedgwick Jenness, of Detroit, and Lucy Jane, only daughter of Hon. Wm. Moore, of York.

DEATHS.

COFFIN.—At Milton, Ulster County, on the morning of the 17th inst., of consumption, Eliza, daughter of the late Urish Coffin, in the 34th year of her age, much respected and beloved by all who knew her.

NICKERSON.—At West Danvors, Mass., of dysentery, July 26th, Caroline U., aged 6 years. August 4th, Susanna M., aged 4 years; Sarilla, 2 year. August 7th, Rebecca H., aged 8 years. August 10th, Margaret Jane, aged 10 years—children of Amos and Margaret Nickerson. In the short space of two weeks these parents have been called to bury five, out of a family of eight children. The disease was one of great malignancy, in some respects resembling the Asiatic cholera.

THE SEVENTEENTH NATIONAL ANTI-SLAVERY BAZAAR,

To be held in Boston, commencing on Tuesday the 19th of December, 1850.

IT is certainly unnecessary for the undersigned to enlarge upon the importance of this undertaking, the force and solemnity of the motives that have induced them to enter upon and continue it, or the encouraging success that has from year to year crowned the effort.

The patient labor of years has not been in vain. The strongholds of apathy and indifference, even the most hopeless, have been stormed and carried. The mind of the whole country is aroused to its utmost activity, and He who makes the wrath of man praise Him, by the overruling of it to the carrying forward of His own gracious purposes, enables us to see, in the changing schemes and cowardly combinations of political parties, the hitherto undreamed of treason of eminent Northern statesmen, the increased confusion, violence, not to say madness, of the Southern slave-masters, those elements of human weakness and passion from which, when conflicting on so grand a scale as at present, evolve the great changes which are the way-marks of History.

Hardly could it occur to the most ignorant and thoughtless mind, that the abolition of American Slavery could take place but by an agitation that should convulse the whole nation. The indications that accompany all great changes must be seen here; "upon the earth, distress of nations with perplexity, the sea and the waves roaring; men's hearts failing them

Miscellany.

LAST DAYS OF COPERNICUS.

It was a still, clear night in the month of May, 1543: the stars shone brightly in the heavens, and all the world slept in the little town of Wernica, a canonry of Prussian Poland—all save one man, who watched alone in a solitary chamber, at the summit of a lofty tower. The only furniture of this apartment consisted of a table, a few books, and an iron lamp. Its occupant was an old man of about seventy, bowed down by years and toil, and his brow furrowed by anxious thought; but in his eye kindled the fire of genius, and his noble countenance was expressive of gentle kindliness, and of a calm contemplative disposition. His white hair, parted on his forehead, fell in waving locks upon his shoulders. He wore the ecclesiastical costume of the age and country in which he lived: the long straight robe, with a fur collar and double sleeves, which were also lined with fur as far as the elbow.

This old man was the great astronomer, Nicholas Copernicus, doctor of philosophy, divinity, and medicine; titular canon of Wernica; and honorary professor of Bologna, Rome, &c. Copernicus had just completed his great work 'On the Revolution of the Heavenly Bodies.' In the midst of poverty, ridicule and persecution, without any other support than that of his own modest genius, or any instrument save a triangle of wood, he had unveiled heaven to earth, and was now approaching the term of his career just as he had established on a firm basis those discoveries which were destined to change the whole face of astronomical science. On that very day the canon of Wernica had received the last proof-sheets of his book, which his disciple Rheticus was getting printed at Nuremberg; and, before sending back these final proofs, he wished to verify for the last time the result of his discoveries. Heaven seemed to have sent him a night expressly fitted for his purpose, and he passed the whole of it in his observatory. When the astronomer saw the stars beginning to pale in the eastern sky, he took the triangular instrument which he had constructed with his own hands out of three pieces of wood, and directed it successively towards the four cardinal points of the horizon. No shadow of a doubt remained, and, overpowered by the conviction that he had *indeed* destroyed an error of five thousand years' duration, and was about to reveal to the world an imperishable truth, Copernicus knelt in the presence of that glorious volume whose starry characters he had first learned to decipher, and, folding his attenuated hands across his bosom, thanked his Creator for having opened his eyes to understand and read aright these His glorious works. He then returned to the table, and, seizing a pen, he wrote on the title-page of his book—'Behold the work of the greatest and the most perfect Artizan: the work of God himself.' And now the first excitement having passed away, he proceeded, with a collected mind, to write the dedication of his book.

'To the Most Holy Father, Pope Paul III.: I dedicate my work to your holiness, in order that all the world, whether learned or ignorant, may see that I do not seek to shun examination and the judgment of my superiors. Your authority, and your love for science in general, and for mathematics in particular, will serve to shield me against wicked and malicious slanderers, notwithstanding the proverb which says that there is no remedy against the wounds inflicted by the tongue of calumny, &c.

NICHOLAS COPERNICUS—*Of Thorn.*'

Soon the first dawn of day caused the lamp of the astronomer to burn more dimly; he leant his forehead upon the table, and, overcome by fatigue, sank into a peaceful slumber. After sixty years of labor, he in truth needed repose. But his present repose, at all events, was not destined to be of long duration: it was abridged by the entrance of an aged servant, who, with slow and heavy step, ascended the tower stairs.

'Master,' said he to the canon as he gently touched him upon the shoulder, 'the messenger who arrived yesterday from Rheticus is ready to set out on his return, and is only waiting for your proof-sheets and letters.'

The astronomer rose, made up the packet, which he duly sealed, and then sank back upon his chair, as if wearied by the effort.

'But that is not all,' continued the servant; 'there are ten poor sick people in the house waiting for you; and besides, you are wanted at Frauenberg, to look after the water-machine, which has stopped working: and also to see the three workmen who have broken their legs in trying to set it going again.'

'Poor creatures!' exclaimed Copernicus. 'Let my horse be saddled directly.' And with a resolute effort shaking off the sleep which weighed down his eyelids, the good man hastily descended the stairs of the tower.

The house of Copernicus was, in outward appearance, one of the most unpretending in Wernica: it was composed of a laboratory, in which he prepared medicine for the poor; a little studio, in which this man of genius, skilled in art as in science, painted his own likeness or those of his friends, or traced his recollections of Rome and of Bologna; and lastly, of a small parlor on the ground-floor, which was ever open to all who came to him for remedies, for money, or for food. Over the door an oval aperture had been cut, through which a ray of the mid-day sun daily penetrated, and, resting upon a certain point in the adjoining room, marked the hour of noon. This was the astronomical gnomon of Copernicus; and the only ornament the room contained were some verses written by his own hand, and pasted up over the chimney-piece.

It was in this parlor that the good canon found the ten invalids who had come to claim his assistance: he dressed the wounds of some, administered remedies to others, and on all he bestowed alms and words of kindness and consolation. Having completed his labors, he hastily swallowed a draught of milk, and was about to set out for Fraunberg, when a horseman, gallopping up to the door, handed him a letter. He trembled as he recognized the handwriting of his friend Gysius, Bishop of Culm. 'May God have pity on us,' wrote this latter, 'and avert the blow which threatens thee! Thy enemies and thy rivals combined—those who accuse thee of folly, and those who treat thee as a heretic—have been so successful in exciting against thee the minds of the people of Nuremberg, that men curse thy name in the streets; the priests excommunicate thee from their pulpits; and the university, hearing that thy book was about to appear, has declared its intention to break the printing presses of the publisher, and to destroy the work to which thy life has been devoted. Come and lay the storm; but come quickly, or thou wilt be too late.'

Before Copernicus had finished the perusal of this letter, he fell back voiceless and powerless into the arms of his faithful servant, and it was some moments before he rallied. When he again looked up, the horseman, who had been charged to escort him back, asked him how soon he would wish to set out.

'I must set out directly,' replied the old man in a resigned tone; 'but not for Nuremberg or for Culm: the suffering workmen at Frauenberg are expecting me; they may perhaps die if I do not go to their assistance. My enemies may perhaps destroy my work—they cannot stop the stars in their courses!'

An hour later, Copernicus was at Frauenberg. The machine which he had bestowed upon this town, which was built on the summit of a hill, conveyed thither the waters of Bouda, situated at the distance of half a league in the valley below. The inhabitants, instead of suffering, like their fathers, from continued drought, had now only to turn a valve, and the plenteous stream flowed into their houses in rich abundance.

This machine had got out of order the preceding day, and the accident had happened very inopportunely, because this was the festival of the patron saint of Frauenberg. But at the first glance the canon saw where the evil lay, and in a few hours the water again flowed freely into the town. His first cares, we need not say, had been directed to the unhappy men who received injuries whilst working in the sluices; he set their fractured limbs, and bound them up with his own hands; then commending them to the care of an attendant, he promised to return and visit them on the morrow. But a blow was about to descend upon himself which was destined to crush him to the dust.

As he crossed the square, whilst passing through the town on his return home, he perceived amidst the crowd a company of strolling players acting upon a temporary stage. The theatre represented an astronomical observatory, filled with all sorts of ridiculous instruments—in the midst stood an old man whose dress and bearing were in exact imitation of those of Copernicus. The resemblance was so striking, that he directly recognised himself, and paused stupified with astonishment. Behind the merry-Andrew, whose business it was thus to hold up the great man to public derision, there stood a personage whose horns and cloven foot designated him as a representation of Satan, and who caused the pseudo Copernicus to act and speak, as though he had been an automaton, by means of two strings fastened to his ears—which were no other than asses' ears, of considerable dimensions. The parody was composed of several scenes. In the first, the astronomer gave himself to Satap, burnt a copy of the Bible, and trampled a crucifix under foot: in the second, he explained his system, by juggling with apples in guise of planets, whilst his head was transformed into a likeness of the sun by means of torches of resin: in the third, he became a charlatan, a vender of pomatum and quack medicines—he spoke dog-Latin to the passers-by; sold them water, which he had drawn from his own well, at an exorbitant price; and became intoxicated himself with excellent wine, in such copious draughts of which did he indulge, that he finally disappeared under the table: in the fourth and closing act he was again dragged forth to view as one accursed of God and man; and the devil, dragging him down to the infernal regions amidst a cloud of sulphurous smoke, declared his intention of punishing him for having caused the earth to turn on its axis, by condemning him to remain with his head downwards throughout eternity.

When Copernicus thus beheld the treasured discoveries of his whole life held up to the derision of an ignorant multitude, his enlightened faith branded as impiety, and his self-denying benevolence ridiculed as the quackery of a charlatan, his noble spirit was at first utterly overwhelmed, and the most fearful doubts of himself, of mankind, and even of Providence itself, rushed upon his mind. At first he hoped that the Frauenbergians, the children of his adoption, to whose comfort and happiness he had devoted himself for fifty years, would cut short the disgraceful scene. But alas! he saw his defamers welcomed with applause by those on whom he had conferred so many benefits. The trial was too much for his failing strength; and worn out by the emotions and fatigue of the preceding night, and by the labors of the morning, he sunk exhausted to the ground. Then, for the first time, did the ungrateful multitude recognise their benefactor: the name of Copernicus flew from lip to lip—they heard that he had come that very morning to the town in order to relieve their distress—in a moment the current of popular feeling was turned, their ingratitude was quickly changed to remorse—the crowd dispersed the actors, and crowded anxiously round the astronomer. He had only strength left to call for a litter, and was conveyed back to Wernica in a dying state. He lingered, however, still for five days—days of trial and anxiety—during which the lamp of genius and of faith still shed its halo around the dying man. On the day succeeding his visit to Frauenberg, a letter from Rheticus confirmed the sinister predictions of the bishop of Culm: thrice had the student's of the university made an attempt to invade the printing-office whence the truth was about to issue forth. 'Even this very morning,' wrote his friend, 'a set of madmen tried to set fire to it. I have assembled all our friends within the building, and we never quit our posts either day or night, guarding the entrance, and keeping watch over the workmen—the printers perform their work with one hand, whilst they hold a pistol in the other. If we can stand our ground for two days, thy book is saved: for let only ten copies be struck off, and nothing will any longer be able to destroy it. . . . . But if either to-day or to-morrow our enemies should succeed in gaining the upper hand' . . . . . Rheticus left the sentence unfinished, but Copernicus supplied the want—he knew how much depended upon this moment. On the third day another messenger made his appearance, and he, too, was the bearer of evil tidings: 'A compositor, gained over by our enemies, has delivered into their hands the manuscript of the book, and it has been burned in the public square. Happily the impression was complete, and we are now putting it into press. . . . But a popular tumult might yet ruin all!'

Such was the state of suspense in which the great Copernicus passed the closing days of his existence! Life was ebbing fast, and the torpor of death had already begun to steal over his faculties, when a horseman gallopping up to the door in breathless haste, and springing from his horse, hastened into the house of the dying astronomer. A volume, whose leaves were still damp, was treasured in his bosom: it was the *chef-d'œuvre* of Copernicus: *this* messenger was the bode of victory.

The spark of life, so nearly extinguished, seemed to be rekindled for a moment in the breast of the dying man: he raised himself in his bed, grasped the book with his feeble hand, and glanced at its contents with his dim, expiring eye. A smile lighted up his features; the book fell from his grasp; and clasping his hands together, he exclaimed, 'Lord, let thy servant now depart in peace!' Hardly had he uttered these words, before his spirit fled from earth to return to the God who gave it. It was the morning of the 23rd May—day had not yet dawned—heaven was still lighted up with stars—the earth was fragrant with flowers—all nature seemed to sympathise with the great revealer of her laws—and soon the sun, rising above the horizon, shed his earliest and purest ray upon the still, cold brow of the departed, and seemed in his turn to say, 'The king of creation gives thee the kiss of peace, for thou hast been the first to replace him on his throne.'

Persecution followed Copernicus even in the grave. The court of Rome replied to his dedication by condemning his book; but the book was the instrument of its own revenge by enlightening the court of Rome herself, which at last recognised, although too late, the faith and the genius of the astronomer of Wernica. Prussia, with the ingratitude of a conqueror, has converted the observatory of Copernicus into a prison, and is now allowing his dwelling-house to crumble into ruins. But Poland, his native land, has collected some of her last *obole*s, to raise a monument to his memory at Cracow, and to erect a statue of him in Warsaw. This statue is from the hand of the great sculptor Thorvaldsen.—*Chambers' Edinburg Journal.*

CONFESSIONS OF A SWORD SWALLOWER.

I have been connected with the conjuring and tumbling profession, and every branch of them, for 46 years. I lost my mother when a child, and my father was a carpenter, and allowed me to go with the tumblers. I continued tumbling twenty-three or twenty four years. It never was what you call a good buisness, only a living. I got £3 a week certainly, at one time, and sometimes £4; but you had to live upon it, or you were nothing thought of—that is if you kept "good company." Now, there is not a living to be made at the trade.

Six and twenty years ago I began to practice sword swallowing against the celebrated Ramo Samee, who was then paid £25 or £30 a week. I first practised with a cane, and found it difficult to get the cane down. When I first did it with the cane, I thought I was a dead man—There's an aperture in the chest that opens and shuts; and it keeps opening and shutting, as I understand it; but I know nothing about what they call anatomy, and never thought about such things.

Well if the cane or sword goes down upon the aperture when it is shut it can go no further, and the pain is dreadful. If it is open, the weapon can go through, the aperture closing on the weapon.—The first time I put down the cane I got it back easily, but I put my head on the table and was very sick, vomiting dreadfully. I tried again the same afternoon, however, three or four times afterwards, and did it without pain. I did it two or three times more and the next day bodly tried it with a sword and succeeded. The sword was blunt, and was thirty-six inches long, an inch wide, and perhaps an inch thick. I felt frightened with the cane, but not with the sword. Before the sword was used it was rubbed with a hankerchief and made warm by friction. I swallowed swords for fourteen years.—At one time I used to swallow three swords, a knife and two forks, of coarse keeping the handles in my mouth, and having all the blades in my stomach together. I felt no pain. No doubt many of the audience felt more pain in seeing it than I in doing it.

I wore a Turkish dress both in the streets and the theatres. I never saw ladies faint at my performance—no, there was no nonsense of that kind. Gentlemen often pulled the sword and knives by their handles out of my mouth, to convince themselves it was real, and they found it was real, though the people to this day generally believe it is not. I've sometimes seen people shudder at my performance, but I generally had loud applause. I used to hold my head back with the swords in my stomach, for two or three minutes. I've had a guinea a day for sword swallowing. This guinea a day was only for a few days at fair times. I was with old "salt box" Brown, too, and swallowed swords and conjured with him. I swallowed swords with him thirty times a day—more than one each time, sometimes three or four. I had a third of the profits; Brown had two-thirds. We divided after all the expenses were paid. My third might have been 30s. a week, but it would'nt be half as much now if I could swallow swords well.

If I could swallow a tea-kettle now the people would hardly look at me. Sometimes—indeed, a great many times—say twenty—I have brought up oysters out of my stomach after eating them, just as I swallowed them, on the end of my sword. At other times, there was blood on the end of the blade. I always felt faint after the blood, and used to take gin or anything I could get at hand to relieve me, which it did for a time. At last I injured my health so much that I was obliged to go to the doctor's. I used to eat well, and drink too. When I felt myself injured by swallowing I had lost my appetite, and the doctor advised me to take honey and liquids, tea, beer, and sometimes a drop of grog. At three months' end he told me if I swallowed swords it would be my death; but for all that I was forced to swallow swords to get a meal to swallow. I kept swallowing swords three or four years after this, not feeling any great suffering. I then thought I would swallow a live snake. I'd never heard of any one, Indian or anybody, swallowing a live snake.

It came into my head once by catching a grass snake in the fields in Norfolk. I said to myself, as I held it by the neck, "There seems no harm in this fellow; I'll try if I can swallow him." I tried then and there, and I did swallow him. It felt cold and slimy as it went down. I did'nt feel afraid for I kept tight hold of him by the tail; and no one has any reason to be afraid of a grass snake. When I brought the snake up again, in about three minutes, it seemed dead. After that I introduced snake swallowing into my performances, and did so for about four years. I have taken 5s. and as low as 1s. when I swallowed snakes in the streets of London. I catched my own snakes a few miles from London, and killed very few thro' swallowing on 'em. Six snakes, properly fed on milk, lasted me a year. The snakes never injured me; and I should'nt have given it up, but the performance grew stale, and the people would not give me anything for it.

I have swallowed swords in the streets thirty to forty times in a day, and snakes as often, both in town and country. I thought once I could'nt have followed any other sort of life; you see I'd been so long accustomed to public life; besides, I may have liked it far better than labor, as most young men do but no labor can be harder than mine has been. If my father had been what he ought, he might have checked my childish doings and wishes. I have tried other things, though in the hope of bettering myself. I have tried shoe-making for five or six years, but I could'nt get a living at it. I was'nt competent for it—that's two year ago—so now I'm musician to a school of acrobats. Very many like me remain in the street business, because they can't go out of it; that's the fact. Whilst I swallowed swords and snakes I played the fire-eater. I did it once or twice last week. I eat red hot cinders from the grate; at least I put them in my mouth, really red hot cinders. I have had melted lead in my mouth. I only use a bit of chalk.—*London Morning Chronicle.*

NAMES OF TOWNS.

"There is less excuse for the pompous folly committed by giving absurd names, when we remember that we are in fact no more wanting in good leading ideas for such purposes, than other people. After the first duty of preserving as many Indian words as possible, and after allowing a portion of the counties and towns for monuments to distinguished men, either as local benefactors, or deserving well of the country generally, there would no doubt still remain a large number of sites to be named. But we need not set off on a wild goose chase in quest of these. Combinations from different natural objects have been hitherto very little used in this country, and yet they are always very pleasing when applied with fitness, and form a class almost inexhaustible from their capability of variation. Broadmeadows, Brookfield, Rivermead, Oldoaks, Nutwoods, Highborough, Hillhamlet, Shallowford, Brookdale, Clearwater, Newbridge, &c, &c., are instances of the class of names alluded to, and it would be easy to coin hundreds like them, always bearing in mind their fitness to the natural or artificial features of the spot; springs, woods, heights, dales, rocks, pastures, orchards, forges, furnaces, factories, &c., &c., are all well adapted to many different combinations in this way.

"Another large and desirable class of words may be found in those old Saxon words, which have been almost entirely overlooked by us, although we have a perfectly good right to use them, by descent and speech. They will bear connexion either with proper names or with common nouns. A number of these may be readily pointed out. There is *ham* or home, and *borough*, also, which have occasionally, though rarely, been used. We give others of the same kind:

"*Bury* means a town or a hamlet: Seabury would therefore suit a town on the sea-shore; Woodbury another near a wood.

"*Rise*, speaks for itself, as rising ground.

"*Wick*, has a two-fold signification; either a village, or a winding shore or bay. Sandwich would suit another village on the shore: Bushwick for a bushy spot upon some river.

"*Stead* and *Stowe*, and *Stock*, have all three the same general signification of a dwelling-place. Thus, Newstead means also Newtown; Woodstock means a place in the woods.

"*Burn* and *Bourne*, signify either a stream or a boundary, and would, with other words, either proper or common, suit many villages; thus, Riverbourne, where two States or counties are divided by a river—Alderburn, for a village on the brook where alders grow; Willowburn also.

"*Shire*, means a division.

"*Combe*, means a valley; Meadowcombe, Longcombe, Beavercombe, are instances.

"*Ness*, is a promontory or headland: as Cliffness.

"*Work* means a building; like Newark.

"*Worth*, means a street or road, or a farm, and combined with other words, would be adapted to many a hamlet; as Longworth, Hayworth, Hopworth &c., &c.

'*Werth*, *Wearth*, and *Wyrth*, with the same sound, have the same meaning as *Worth*.

"*Hurst*, is a thicket of young trees; Elmhurst, Hazelhurst, Mapelhurst, are examples of its application.

"*Holt*, is a wood. Grayholt would do for a hamlet near an old forrest, Greenholt for a younger one; Beech-holt, Firholt, Aspenholt, are other examples.

"*Shaw*, is also a wood, or a marked tuft of trees; Cedarshaw, Shawbeech. Oakshaw, are examples.

"*Weald*, also signifies a wood; Broadweald, Highweald, Pineweald, would make good names.

"*Wold*, on the contrary, is a plain or open country, little wooded.

"*Hithe*, is a small haven or port.

"*Moor*, is a marsh or fen.

"*More*, on the contrary, and Moreland, signify hilly grounds.

"*Mere* and *Pool*, *Water* and *Tarn*, are of course suitable for small lakes.

"*Thorpe*, is a village; Newthorpe, Valleythorpe, Hillthorpe, are examples.

"*Hay*, is a hedge, and would suit a small hamlet where hedges are found.

"*Haw* and *Haugh*, mean small meadows.

"*Cott* or *Cote*, applies to cottages, and would suit many hamlets.

"*By*, as a termination, means, a dwelling-place; *ly* or *leigh*, a field. *Croft*, a small enclosure.

"Now would not most of these, and others like them, answer much better than the constant repetition of *ville* or *town*? Let us suppose a small village to spring up in a new country; one of its most prominent inhabitants bearing the name of Antoninus Smith, has shown much interest in the place, and contributed in various ways to its advancement. His neighbors are well aware of the fact, and wish to express their sense of his merits by naming the little place after him. Some, accordingly propose Antoninusville, others prefer Smithville; one admires Smithopolis, another Antoninustown. They are soon agreed however, for names are among the very few subjects which it is not thought necessary to submit to discussion in this wordy land of ours. A post is put up at the first crossing in the highway—'To Smithville, 2 miles. Now would not Smithstead, or Smithbury, have answered much better, showing that something may be done with the most unpromising name without tacking a *ville* to it?

"Then, again; if there be several places of the same name in one neighborhood, as frequently happens, they are distinguished by East, West, North, and South; as for example: Scienceville, East Scienceville, West Scienceville, Scienceville Centre. Now, it happens that a fine grove of oaks stands on a point quite near the principal village; let us, therefore, change the name to Oakhurst, and instead of the points of the compass, to distinguish the different hamlets, let us call them Upper and Lower, High and Nether, Far and Near Oakhurst, and would not most people declare this an improvement?

"The very fact of our motely origin as colonists should provide some good materials for naming new towns and villages. Not by week and absurd repetitions of all the European capitals in the shanties of American backwoods, but by adopting those terminations peculiar to each nation which will bear an English pronunciation. Such may easily be found. *Heim*, and *Hausen*, and *Dorf*, and *Feld* are German words, well suited to many places in Pennsylvania. *Wyck*, and *Dual*, and *Dorp* are Dutch words, which will bear the same connection with proper names of Dutch origin. The Huguenots from France may employ *hameau*, and *cote*, and *champ*, and *roche*, and *plaine* in the same way. Some Swedish and Norwegian words of the same kind would be well placed among the honest Scandinavian colonists who have lately gone out upon the prairies of Wisconsin and Iowa. A fit selection from Scotch, Irish, and Welch words of the same class may well be preserved among the descendants of emigrants from those countries. Now and then it would not be amiss if some of the smaller lakes and pools, which are now worse than nameless, were to become loch Jeanie, or loch Mary, loch Davie, or loch Willie. In short, if we would but think so, we have by far too many resources in this way, to be driven perpetually to the Classical Dictionary for assistance.—*Rural Hours.*

AN ARMY OF MONKEYS: NOVEL SUSPENSION BRIDGE.

"They are coming towards the bridge; they will most likely cross by the rocks yonder,' observed Raoul.

"How; swim it?" I asked. "It is a torrent there!"

"Oh, no!" answered the Frenchman; "monkeys would rather go into fire than water. If they cannot leap the stream they will bridge it."

"Bridge it! and how?"

"Stop a moment captain, you shall see." The half human voices now sounded nearer, and we could perceive that the animals were now approaching the spot where we lay. Presently they appeared upon the opposite bank, headed by an old gray chieftan and officered like so many soldiers. They were as Raoul had stated, of the *comadreja* or ring-tailed tribe.

One—an aide-de-camp, or chief pioneer, perhaps—ran out upon a projecting rock, and after looking across the stream, as if calculating the distance, scampered back and appeared to communicate with the leader. This produced a moment in the troop. Commands were issued, and fatigue parties were detailed and marched to the front. Meanwhile several of the comedrejas—engineers, no doubt—ran along the bank, examining the trees on both sides of the *arroyo*.

At length they all collected around a tall cottonwood, that grew over the narrowest part of the stream, and twenty or thirty of them scampered up its trunk. On reaching a high point, the foremost—a strong fellow—ran out upon a limb, and taking several turns of his tail around it, slipped off and hung head downwards. The next on the limb, also a stout one, climbed down the body of the first, and whipping his tail tightly round the neck and forearm of the latter, dropped off in his turn, and hung head down. The third repeated the manœuvre upon the second, and the fourth upon the third, and so on, until the last one upon the string rested his forepaws upon the ground.

The living chain now commenced swinging backwards and forwards, like the pendulum of a clock.—The motion was slight at first, but gradually increased, the lowermost monkey striking his hands violently on the earth as he passed the tangent of the oscillating curve. Several others upon the limbs above aided the movement.

This continued until the monkey at the end of the chain was thrown among the branches of a tree in the opposite bank. Here, after two or three vibrations, he clutched a limb, and held fast. This movement was executed adroitly, just at the culminating point of the oscillation, in order to save the intermediate links from the violence of a too sudden jerk.

The chain was now fast at both ends, forming a complete suspension bridge, over which the whole troop, to the number of four or five hundred, passed with the rapidity of thought.

It was one of the most comical sights I ever be held, to witness the quizzical expression of countenances along that living chain!

The troop was now on the other side, but how were the animals forming the bridge to get themselves over? This was the question that suggested itself. Manifestly, by number one letting go his tail. But then the *point d' appui* on the other side was much lower down, and number one, with half-a-dozen of his neighbors, would be dashed against the opposite bank, or soused into the water.

Here, then, was a problem, and we waited with curiostiy for its solution. It was soon solved. A monkey was now seen attaching his tail to the lowest on the bridge, another girdled him in a similar manner, and another, and so on, until a dozen more were added to the string. These last were all powerful fellows; and running up to a high limb they lifted the bridge into a position almost horizontal.

Then a scream from the last monkey of the new formation warned the tail end that all was ready; and the next moment the whole chain was swung over, and landed safely on the opposite bank. The lowermost links now dropped off like a melting candle, while the higher ones leaped to the branches and came down by the trunk. The whole troop then scampered off to the chapparel and disappeared!—*Captain Reid's Adventures in Southern Africa.*

OPINIONS ON THE FUTURE OF CHRISTIANITY.

"It seems clear to me, from all which is occurring in Europe at this moment, from the signs in the papal church, in our own church, in the universal talk and minds of men, whether for it or against it, that the knell of the letter of Christianity itself has struck, and that it is time for us to inaugurate and enthrone the spirit. I was in hopes when Pius the Ninth first made his appearance in Europe, that a great as well as good man had arisen, competent to so noble a task. Young Italy, let loose from prison fell at his feet; and I think that, had he persevered in what made it do so, all Europe would have fallen at his feet, and the papal power would have thus profited by its greatest and only remaining chance of retaining the sceptre of the Christian world. But the New Pope was frightened at being thought one of the 'New Christians' (as Lamartine called them); he hastened to issue a bull declaring the unalterableness of every papal dogma; and the moment he did that, he signed the death-warrant of his church. Dogma, whatever may be the convulsive appearances to the contrary in certain feeble quarters, has ceased to be a vital European principle; and nothing again will ever be universally taken for Christianity, but the religion of Love to God and Man:—Love to God, as the Divine Mind which brings good and beauty out of blind-working matter; and Love to Man, as God's instrument for advancing the world we live in, and as partaker with his fellow-men of suffering, endeavor, and enjoyment. 'Reason,' says Milton, 'is choice;' and where is to be found a religion better to choose than this? Immortality is a hope for all, which it is not just to make a blessing for any less number, or a misery for a single soul. Faith depends for its credibility on its worthiness; and without 'works' is 'dead.' But charity, by which lovely Greek word is not to be understood any single form of moral grace and kindness, but every possible form of it conducive to love on earth, and its link with heaven, is the only *sine qua non* of all final opinions of God and man.

"'Behold I give unto you a new commandment—Love one another.' 'In this ye fulfil the law and the prophets' 'By their fruits ye shall know them.' 'God is Love.'

—"Such, and such only, are texts upon which sermons will be preached to the exclusion of whatsoever is infernal and unintelligible. No hell. No unfatherliness. No monstrous exactions of assent to the incredible. No impious Athanasian Creed.—No creed of any kind but such as proves its divineness by the wish of all good hearts to believe it if they might, and by the encouragement that would be given them to believe it, in the acclamations of the earth. The world has outgrown the terrors of its childhood, and no spurious mistake of a saturnine spleen for a masculine necessity will induce a return to them. Mankind have become too intelligent: too brave; too impatient of being cheated, and threatened, and 'put off;' too hungry and thirsty for a better state of things in the beautiful planet in which they live, and the beauty of which has been an unceasing exhortation and preface to the result. By that divine doctrine will all men gradually come to know in how many quarters the Divine Spirit has appeared among them, and what sufficing lessons for their guidance they have possessed in almost every creed, when the true portions of it hail one another from nation to nation, and mixture of error through which it worked has become unnecessary. For God is not honored by supposing him a niggard of his bounty. Jesus himself was not divine because he was Jesus, but because he had a divine and loving heart; and wherever such greatness has appeared, there has divineness appeared also, as surely as the same sunshine of heaven is on the mountain tops of east and west.

"Such are the doctrines, and such only, accompanied by expositions of the beauties and wonders of God's great book of the universe, which will be preached in the temples of the earth, including those of our beloved country, England, its beautiful old ivied turrets and their green neigoborhoods, then, for the first time, thoroughly uncontradicted and heavenly; with not a sound in them more terrible than the stormy yet sweet organ, analagous to the beneficent winds and tempests; and no thought of here or hereafter, that can disturb the quiet aspect of the graves, or the welcome of the newborn darling.

"And that such a consummation may come slowly, but surely, without intermission in its advance, and with not an injury to a living soul, will be the last prayer, as it must needs be among the latest words, of the author of this book."—*Leigh Hunt's Autobiography.*

The Tablet, a Catholic Journal in Great Britain, copies from the (Paris) *Univers* a letter from Rimini, giving a full account of the miraculous moving of the eyes of a picture of the Virgin. The following is an extract:

RIMINI, June 2d, 1850.

"*Live the Precious Blood!*"

"Most illustrious and respected Superior.....On Saturday, May 11th, a married woman and her two young daughters perceived a movement of the eyes of the blessed Virgin in the picture placed, as you will recollect in the little chapel at the end of the church. From motives of prudence they kept silent. On Sunday morning they returned an observed the same thing; they then sent to the church two other young girls, their companions, without telling them anything, but merely saying, 'Go to St. Clare's Church and observe the picture of the Madonna, in such a chapel.' The girls went thither, saw, and reported the fact. This was towards mid-day. Two or three hours afterwards, the news ran like lightning through the city, and the church and the streets leading to it were crowded. Every one ran to St. Clare's Church. I then went to the Vicar-General to beg him to take any measure that he might judge expedient. He came and removed the image to the high altar. The crowd incessantly increasing, and it was with difficulty that the church could be closed after midnight. And from that time, till the moment I write, the movement has continued—it still continues. The crowd of people daily augments, and the vast church of St. Agustine at some hours cannot contain them; the streets of Rimini are filled with strangers. Incredulity at once began to deny the fact, asserting that the reflexion of the wax-lights on the glass might deceive the sight, and this rumor was so strong that the Vicar-General felt obliged to remove the glass. He did so in the presence of a vast assemblage, which were moved to tears, and pressed toward the holy picture, the beauty of which was increased after the glass was removed. In public satires some have ventured to accuse the missionaries of a certain mechanical contrivance which wrought the prodigy, and it was in consequence of this accusation that they showed the picture to the people, simply on the bare canvas.—The movement consists in this: the eyes of the picture are frequently raised to Heaven in the attitude of supplication. Sometimes the entire eye turns round; at other times the pupil appears brilliant like a diamond. Several persons are certain that it sometimes moves it lips, and changes color, and that the picture being naturally pale, sometimes appears all of a ruddy hue. The whole city being stirred by this fact, ten days of spiritual exercises have been given, during which it is not we who have preached, but rather the Queen of the Apostles, and she continues to preach, and the confessions are innumerable; and if we except those who are, so to speak, confirmed in evil, every body makes it a duty to approach the Sacrament."

Gleanings from Foreign Publications.

The Exhibition Committee (of the Industrial Congress) has accepted the tender of Mr. Paxton to erect in Hyde Park a building composed chiefly of iron and glass.

——It appears (says the *Newcastle Journal*) that the miserable food resorted to by the starving peasantry on the sea coasts of Ireland, the common "sea weed," is becoming, even in this country, extensively used by the poor for food. It is now forwarded by rail from Shields to Manchester and Leeds, by women who gather it from the rocks at Tynemouth; and on arrival at its destination, it is regularly sold in the markets for from 3d. to 4d. per pound.

——The Outrage on Her Majesty.—Robert Pate, who committed the dastardly assault on her Majesty, (for striking her with a stick for which he was sentenced to seven years transportation) has since his removal to the Millbank Penitentiary been an inmate of the infirmary of that prison. In consequence of the medical and other testimony adduced at his trial, Sir George Grey was induced to direct a medical examination of the prisoner, and the result has been the recommendation for his confinement in the infirmary.—Pate is stated to be in a very delicate state of health. He employs his time by writing letters in different languages.

——A Brief Obituary.—I remember a story told of the late Dr. Thomas Warton, the poet-laureate, who was at no time fond of minute detail in conversation, being asked by an old lady for an account of all the particulars of his grand-mother's death, and this when he was very intent on a very interesting slice of venison. "Madam," said the poet abruptly, "she died suddenly!" This stopped all further investigation, and left him in the quiet enjoyment of his dinner—*Duncan's Essays and Miscellanea.*

——A Gutta Percha Ship!—A sailing yatch, built of gutta percha, was last week exhibited on the Surpentine, in Hyde Park, which, it was said, could neither be sunk nor overturned. Various experiments were tried, all with success. The boat sailed equally well full of water or empty! An attempt made to capsize her failed. We must add that she was built on the life-boat principle, and was provided with air cells, which enabled her to float and make fair way even when full of water, and carrying her cargo besides.

——Letting the Cat out of the Bag.—At a recent meeting of the Market Bosworth Farmers' Club, the following resolution was unaninously agreed to:—"That the duties upon foreign agricultural produce (the great means by which the rental of the land of this country has been maintained at the value created by the war prices) being now repealed, it is necessary that the rents of this kingdom should be generally and greatly reduced to meet the exigencies of the tenant farmers" (loud cheers). This is admitting all that the Free-traders and Leaguers ever asserted of the Corn-law. If the farmers are at last brought to the conviction that Protection is a rent question, what have they been doing for the last thirty-five years in joining the landlord's clamor for protective duties? Why, clearly, they have, by their own admission, been engaged in a scheme for raising rents!—*Standard of Freedom*

——Fool-catching.—A correspondent of the *Weekly Times* says:—"A very large number of letters have lately passed through the Dead Letter-office, each containing a shilling's worth of stamps, addressed to a person who called himself a professor, and who, for some reason or other, was *non est* when the letters arrived for him. These letters were addressed to the professor, in consequence of his advertising that he would, for a shilling, 'give plain directions to enable ladies and gentlemen to win, by a simple, but captivating and enthralling process, the devoted affections of as many of the opposite sex as their hearts may desire.' From the handwriting of these letters, it was evident that they came from old, middle-aged, and young persons of both sexes, in every rank and station of life. Such a fact as this enables an estimate to be formed of the almost marvellous extent of human credulity in this enlightened age and country."

——The Effects of Shot on the Field of Battle.—You can form no idea of the storm of balls and shells which crossed each other in their dread course. Before and around the spot on which Field-Marshal Radetski was standing the heavy sixteen pound shots ploughed up the ground, tracing in one place a deep furrow, and cutting down a tree like stubble in another. It is remarkable how each kind of missile has its own characteristic. There is the tremulous howl of the round large shot, the whistle of the musket-ball, the hiss of the shell, like that of the Catherine-wheel fire-work, and then its detonation as it bursts. Of these last, many which fell amongst us missed fire, and many exploded harmless in the air; but when one fell and did its office the effect was fearful. One such struck an officer in the breast, exploded at that instant, struck down a man to the right and left, cut off the upper part of the officer's body in such a fashion that his frightened horse galloped off some distance with the feet of the corpse in the stirrups. Such are the spectacles which a field of battle occasionally present. Not far off lay a Piedmontese artillerist who had been struck on the forehead by a spent six-pound shot, which remained in the wound. An hussar had been killed at the same instant with his horse, by a shot which had passed through the neck of the latter; they had sunk together, the rider still on the saddle, and the sabre still in his hand. The sudden collapse of a man in full vigor is what is most fearful to behold. One sinks without a groan, another jumps high from the ground with a shriek, falls over, lies stiff, and is dead! I saw a Granzer from the Banat, with a ball in his forehead, falter a few paces, leaning on his musket like a drunken man, and then, after a faint whisper about his home, expire. Over the town the cannon smoke had spread a colossal canopy, which floated motionless above the roofs like the crown of the Italian pine trees.—*Scenes from the Life of a Soldier in Active Service, in* 1849

——Origin of Texts.—The custom of taking a text as the basis of a sermon or lecture is said to have originated with Ezra, who, we are told, accompanied by several Levites in a public congregation of men and women, ascended a pulpit, opened the book of the law, and after addressing a prayer to the Deity, to which the people said "Amen," "read in the law of God distinctly, gave the sense, and caused them to understand the reading." Previous to the time of Ezra, the patriarchs delivered in public assemblies, either prophecies or moral instruction for the edification of the people? and it was not until the return of the Jews from Babylonian captivity, during which time they had almost lost the language in which the Pentateuch was written, that it became necessary to explain, as well as to read the Scriptures to them, a practice adopted by Ezra, and since universally followed. In later times, we are told in the Acts of the Apostle, chap. 14, v 21, the book of Moses was read in the synagogue every Sabbath day. To this laudable custom our Saviour conformed, and in the synagogue every Sabbath day read a passage from the prophet Isaiah, then closing the book, returned it to the priest, and preached from the text. This custom, which now prevails all over the Christian world, was interrupted in the dark ages, when the "Ethics" of Aristotle were read in many churches on Sunday, instead of the Holy Scriptures.

——A Broken Sunbeam from the Cloudy Heavens."—See the effects of a long piece of music at a public concert. The orchestra are breathless with attention, jumping into major and minor keys, executing figures, and fiddling with most ecstatic precision. In the midst of all this